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JNO. HARRIS, C.E.,
RENEWED/REPLACED.

THE
FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DEPUTY KEEPER
OF THE
PUBLIC RECORDS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:
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1896.

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IN IRELAND:—MESSRS. HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

The following is a list of some of the more important Parliamentary and other Publications recently issued:—

Parliamentary:

Statutes—

Public General, Session 1896. With Index, Tables, &c. Cloth. Price 3s.

Second Revised Edition. By authority. Vol. I. A.D. 1235-1713. Vol. II. A.D. 1714-1800. Vol. III. A.D. 1801-1814. Vol. IV. A.D. 1814-1830. Vol. V. A.D. 1830-1836. Vol. VI. A.D. 1837-1842. Vol. VII. A.D. 1843-1846. Vol. VIII. A.D. 1847-1852. Vol. IX. A.D. 1852-1857. Vol. X. A.D. 1858-1862. Roy. 8vo. Boards. Price 7s. 6d. each.

Revised Editions. Tables showing subsequent Repeals, effected by Acts of Session 58 & 59 Vict. 1895. Roy. 8vo. 34 pp. Stitched. Price 6d.

Statutes in Force. Index to. Thirteenth Edition. To the end of the Session 58 & 59 Vict. 2 Vols. Roy. 8vo. Cloth. Price 10s. 6d.

Statutory Rules and Orders other than those of a Local, Personal, or Temporary Character. With a List of the more important Statutory Orders of a Local Character arranged in classes; and an Index. Roy. 8vo. Boards. Issued in the years 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, and 1895. Price 10s. each.

Statutory Rules and Orders in force on 1st January 1893. Index to. Price 10s.

Statutory Rules and Orders, 1896. Registered under the Rules Publication Act, 1893. Now in course of issue.

Acts of Parliament, Public and Local and Private, Session 1896, are now in course of issue.

[C. 7862 and 7862—I. to VIII.] **SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION**. Report, with Evidence, Appendices, &c. Vols. I. to IX. (complete set). Price 19s. 0½d.

[C. 8125.] **AGRICULTURE (ROYAL COMMISSION)**. Particulars of Expenditure and Outgoing on certain Estates in Great Britain. Price 1s. 9d.

[C. 8204.] **REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS**. Report of Departmental Committee on, with Appendices, Vol. I. Price 3s.

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[C. 8209.] **STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**. 15 years, 1831-1895. 43rd No. Price 1s. 1d.

[C. 8214.] **OYSTER CULTURE IN RELATION TO DISEASE**. Report by the Medical Officer on, Price 8s. 6d.

[C. 8221.] **LAND IN WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE (ROYAL COMMISSION)**. Report of Commissioners. Price 10s. 6d.

[C. 8251.] **STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS, 1895**. 8th Report of the Chief Labour Correspondent. Price 2s. 4d.

[C. 8238.] **STATISTICAL ABSTRACT**. British India, from 1885-86 to 1894-95, No. 30. Price 1s. 3d.

[C. 8258.] **INDIAN EXPENDITURE COMMISSION, VOL. I**. First Report of, with Evidence. Price 4s. 8d.

[C. 8259.] **Ditto**. Vol. II. Appendices. Price 3s. 3d.

[C. 8262.] **FINANCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND**. Final Report of Royal Commission, with Appendix. Price 1s. 10d.

[C. 8270.] **VACCINATION**. Final Report of Royal Commission, with Appendix. Price 1s. 10d.

MINES in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Isle of Man. List of, for the year 1895. Price 3s. 3d.

QUARRIES. Ditto. ditto. ditto. Price 2s. 10d.

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The following appear periodically, and can be subscribed for:—

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH BRITISH POSSESSIONS AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES, showing the Quantities and the Declared Value of the Articles.

The Proceedings of Parliament in Public and Private Business are published daily—House of Lords, price 1d. per 4 pp.; House of Commons, 1d. per 8 pp.

TRADE REPORTS of the several British Colonies, with information relative to their

June 1901

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TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

I RESPECTFULLY beg to submit to Your Majesty a Report of the proceedings in the Public Record Office during the year 1895, pursuant to the Act 1 & 2 Vict. c. 94. § 17.

The year has been signalised by the completion of a large and important block of buildings facing Chancery Lane. (*See § VIII.*)

§ I. LEGAL AND LITERARY SEARCH ROOMS.

The number of registered applications for the production of Records, State Papers, &c. in the year 1895 has been—

In the Legal Search Room	-	-	12,432
In the Literary Search Room	-	-	30,622
Total	-	-	<u>43,054</u>

The value of stamps purchased by the public and cancelled in the Legal Search Room has been—

			£	s.	d.
For 737 copies	-	-	490	13	6
„ 17 attendances	-	-	8	10	0
„ 2,190 inspections	-	-	109	10	0
„ 197 general searches	-	-	24	12	6
Total	-	-	<u>633</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
Stamp duty on the same	-	-	9	2	0

Fees to the value of 39*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* have been remitted to certain Departments of State.

§ II. DEPARTMENTAL SEARCH ROOM.

The following table shows the number of applications and searches made on behalf of Government Departments whose archives are deposited in the Public Record Office, and the number of volumes or bundles issued or inspected, during the year 1895 :—

Department.	Applications and Searches.	Issues and Inspections.
Treasury - - - - -	110	267
Home Office - - - - -	6	22
Foreign Office - - - - -	21	89
Colonial Office - - - - -	28	68
War Office - - - - -	1,981	3,168
Admiralty - - - - -	127	968
Charity Commission - - - - -	27	279
Total - - - - -	2,300	4,561

The following table shows the number of volumes or bundles inspected by private searchers provided with permits from Government Departments to consult their archives, deposited in the Public Record Office, but not open to the public :—

Department.	Inspections.
Treasury - - - - -	5
Home Office - - - - -	412
Foreign Office - - - - -	863
Colonial Office - - - - -	5,513
War Office - - - - -	109
Admiralty - - - - -	276
Lord Chamberlain's Department - - - - -	3
Customs - - - - -	240
Total - - - - -	7,421

§ III. TRANSFERS.

The following books and documents were received at the Public Record Office during the year 1895:—

From the Foreign Office:—

126 volumes of Treaties.

From the Patent Office:—

Specifications of Patents, 1880, Nos. 1 to 5517.

From the Treasury:—

Treasury Papers, 18 parcels.

Registers, 8 Vols.

§ IV. CALENDARS.

PATENT ROLLS:

I have stated in previous Reports that I had made arrangements for a systematic Calendar of the Patent Rolls, and that identical instructions had been given to the different officers employed upon the work. Reserving the reign of Henry III. for future treatment, the object of my scheme is to provide an English Calendar to these invaluable documents from the reign of Edward I. to that of Henry VII. inclusive. The work has been started at five points:—

Edward I.—A volume, embracing the period between the twenty-first and the twenty-ninth years inclusive, was published in 1895. (*See § X.*) Four sheets of the succeeding volume, which will extend to the end of the reign, were completed at press in 1895.

Edward II.—Eighteen sheets of the second volume for this reign were completed at press in 1895.

Edward III.—The third volume for this reign was published in 1895. (*See § X.*) A considerable amount of material for the fourth volume was also prepared.

Richard II.—The first volume for this reign was published in 1895. (*See § X.*) Nineteen sheets of the second volume were also completed at press.

Edward IV.—Thirteen sheets of the first volume for this reign were completed at press in 1895.

Certain initial difficulties having been overcome, I hope that this important series of Calendars will proceed steadily.

ANCIENT DEEDS:

Eighteen sheets of the third volume of the Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, mentioned in previous Reports, were completed at press in 1895.

ANCIENT CORRESPONDENCE:

Further progress has been made with the Calendar of mediæval Letters.

LETTERS AND PAPERS, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC, OF THE REIGN OF HENRY VIII.:

The second part of Vol. XIV. was in the binders' hands at the end of 1895.

Twelve sheets of Volume XV. were also completed at press in the course of the year.

STATE PAPERS RELATING TO IRELAND, OF THE REIGN OF ELIZABETH:

A volume dealing with the years 1598 and 1599 was published in 1895. (*See* § X.) Materials were also collected for another volume.

STATE PAPERS, DOMESTIC SERIES, OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES I.:

The editorship of the supplementary volume begun by the late Mr. W. D. Hamilton, was entrusted to Mrs. Everett Green, but the work has been again interrupted by her death.

STATE PAPERS, COLONIAL SERIES:

This work was interrupted by the death, in March 1895, of the editor, Mr. W. N. Sainsbury. The task of completing the volume which was then in the press, was entrusted to the Hon. J. W. Fortescue, and he almost brought it to a close by the end of the year.

CLOSE ROLLS:

The third volume of the Calendar of Close Rolls of the reign of Edward II. was published in 1895. (*See* § X.) The text and the index of the fourth volume were completed at press. Thirty-one sheets of the first volume for the reign of Edward III. were similarly completed.

INQUISITIONES POST MORTEM:

Further progress was made with the Calendar of *Inquisitiones post mortem* of the Courts of Chancery and Exchequer in the reign of Henry VII. By the end of 1895, thirty-five sheets of the first volume were completed at press.

STATE PAPERS, DOMESTIC SERIES, OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES II.:

The late Mrs. Everett Green completed her section of this work last year, bringing it down to the end of 1670. (See § X.)

Mr. Blackburne Daniell, completed a volume dealing with the first eleven months of the year 1671. (See § X.) He has also made considerable progress with another volume.

§ V. LISTS AND INDEXES.

INQUISITIONES POST MORTEM:

Some further progress was made with the alphabetical arrangement of the tabular Index of *Inquisitiones post mortem* of the Courts of Chancery, Exchequer, and Wards and Liveries, between the reigns of Henry VII. and Charles I. inclusive.

EARLY CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS:

The tabulated List of Bills and Answers filed on the Equity side of the High Court of Chancery, before the reign of Elizabeth, has undergone further revision, with a view to the publication of a first instalment of it at an early date.

CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS:

Further progress was made in 1895, with the printing of a similar List of Bills and Answers addressed to Sir Nicholas Bacon, in the reign of Elizabeth, but not noticed in the three volumes issued by the Record Commission in 1827-1832.

COURT ROLLS:

A great part of the comprehensive List of Court Rolls preserved in the Public Record Office was passed for press in the course of 1895.

SUBSIDY ACCOUNTS :

Further progress was made with the List of these documents mentioned in previous Reports.

RENTALS AND SURVEYS :

Further progress was made with the List of these documents mentioned in previous Reports.

ENROLLED ACCOUNTS :

The manuscript of a List extending down to the end of the reign of Richard III. was almost completed in December 1895.

EARLY ACCOUNTS :

Some additions were made to the List of original Accounts of expenditure mentioned in previous Reports. It has not yet been printed, but a fair copy of it was begun for the use of the public in the Search Rooms.

SHERIFFS :

The List of Sheriffs, based upon entries in the Pipe Rolls and the Fine Rolls, which was mentioned in my last two Reports, was completed in manuscript.

§ VI. CLASSIFICATION AND ARRANGEMENT.

A great deal of time and attention has been devoted during the past year, as during the previous eight years, to the classification of documents hitherto unsorted, and the identification of documents insufficiently described in existing Calendars and Lists. A List of Early Accounts of the Exchequer having been completed as mentioned in my last Report, the documents, numbering about 15,000, have been re-arranged and labelled so as to correspond with the List. The remainder of the documents formerly known as the Ancient Miscellanea of the Exchequer (Q.R.) have also been classified and re-numbered. In the course of arrangement considerable additions have been made to the Ancient Deeds, the *Inquisitiones post mortem*, and the County Placita.

§ VII. OPERATIONS BY REPAIRERS AND ATTENDANTS.

—	Rolls, Files, or Suits.	Bundles.	Membranes.	Leaves.	Volumes or Rolls.
Numbered -	55,798	811	9,138	35,034	38
Flattened -	—	—	10,672	273	—
Repaired -	—	—	23,877	29,817	—
Sized - -	—	—	—	34,829	—
Guarded -	—	—	12,169	35,789	—
Sewed - -	—	—	1,765	13	115
Bound - -	—	—	—	—	120
Ticketed -	—	334	8,406	—	4,079
Filed - -	—	—	31,273	—	—
Arranged and dusted.	—	558	—	—	—
Stamped -	—	—	—	175,798	—

The classes to which most attention has been given have been Ancient Correspondence, Decree Rolls, Ancient Deeds, (Series A., A.A., B., B.B., C., C.C., D., D.D., E., F., F.F., L., L.L., L.S.), Depositions, Warrants for Privy Seals, Chancery and Exchequer Proceedings, Surveys and Rentals, Exchequer Accounts, Feet of Fines, Admiralty Letters and Petitions, Colonial Letters and Papers, Court Rolls, Audit Office Declared Accounts, State Papers Domestic, &c., Minister's Accounts, Home Office Papers, &c.

§ VIII. BUILDINGS.

A further sum of 8,500*l.* was voted by the House of Commons for the financial year 1895-96 towards the erection of a new block of the Public Record Office, the total cost of which was estimated at 79,650*l.* A sum of 7,000*l.* was also voted at the same time for iron presses and furniture for the new block, and the expenses of removing Records into it.

This, the third instalment of the General Repository of Records, was completed in the autumn of 1895, from designs by Mr. John Taylor, C.B. of Your Majesty's Office of Works and

Public Buildings, on a site occupied before by twelve houses in Chancery Lane and the southern part of Rolls Yard. In general character it is very similar to the portion previously erected by the late Sir James Pennethorne. Inasmuch, however, as the stone used by him has shown signs of decay, Portland oolite has been substituted for Church Anstone sandstone, and Babbacombe limestone for Kentish rag.

The façade to Chancery Lane is 225 feet long, with a depth of 44 feet at the northern end, and 65 feet at the southern end. The height from the basement floor to the top of the parapet is 84 feet, and there are four ranges of windows. There is a central tower over the gateway, and there are octagonal turrets at the north-western, south-western, and south-eastern angles.

The whole building is of fireproof construction, and the floors have been made on the Fawcett system. Hydrants have been placed on each floor. All the corridors and rooms have been provided with electric light.

The rooms in the northern part of the new block have been fitted with steel presses and slate shelves for the reception of documents of different departments of State. The rooms in the southern part are for the use of the Deputy Keeper, the Secretary, and other members of the staff, who were formerly located in Rolls House. On the ground floor is a Library of printed books for the use of officers of the Department. A room on the first floor, immediately over the gateway, will serve as a museum of documents of special beauty and interest, until the completion of another block of the Public Record Office.

Two statues have been placed in niches over the gateway on the eastern side;—that of Henry III. who founded the House of Converts on this site, and that of Edward III., who united the office of Keeper of the House of Converts with that of Keeper of the Rolls of Chancery.

The removal from Rolls House into the new building was effected in October 1895. Without going into further particulars, it may be well to state that the lightness of the rooms in the latter is of great advantage to those who are occupied in deciphering ancient manuscripts.

In an Appendix to this Report I give some account of the Rolls Chapel, which has been recently demolished.

§ IX. THE ACT 40 & 41 VICT. c. 55.

The Inspecting Officers appointed for the purposes of the first section of the above-mentioned Act have continued their duties in accordance with the Rules of which Your Majesty's approbation was declared by Order in Council on the 30th of June 1890.

Further progress has been made with the Schedule of Documents from the Office of the Registrar of the Chancery of the County Palatine of Lancaster, which has been mentioned in previous Reports. The completion of it has, however, been again deferred, for reasons already stated, and because the various removals of documents, consequent upon the erection of a new block of buildings, involved other work of a more pressing nature.

For similar reasons, the Second Schedule of Home Office documents which have been removed to the Public Record Office, has not yet been quite completed, though it is in an advanced state of preparation. The Inspecting Officers have again had the assistance of Mr. Moran of the Home Office.

The Schedule of Documents of the High Court of Chancery relating to the practice before the Masters in Ordinary, which was mentioned in my last Report as being in course of preparation, required the most careful consideration. It was, however, completed in the year 1895. After having been submitted to Lord Justice Lindley, who agreed with all the thirty-six recommendations contained in it (except one touching the disposal of copies of wills), it was duly approved by the Master of the Rolls.

The Pay Books of the Royal Navy, of which there appear to have been at one time no less than five concurrent series, occupied a great amount of valuable space. After they had been subjected to a very close inspection, it appeared that there was not any reason for preserving more than two of these series. Mr. Follett Pennell, the Deputy Accountant-General of the Navy, was associated with the Inspecting Officers in the consideration of this subject, and employed several clerks of his department to make an independent examination of the documents under his supervision. In the end it was agreed that if one series, known as the Treasurer's, and another known as that of the Ticket Office, were preserved, the rest might safely be destroyed. A Third Schedule of Documents removed from the Office of the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral to the Public Record Office was accordingly prepared. It was submitted to the Master of the Rolls, who gave his approval, and it was also approved by the First Lord of the Admiralty.

Owing to the near approach of the prorogation of Parliament, neither of the two last-mentioned Schedules was laid before the two Houses in the year 1895, but the subsequent proceedings in relation to them will be noticed in my next Report.

Various documents included in Schedules which have already been submitted to the two Houses of Parliament have been found, from time to time, during the process of sorting, and have been duly sent to the Controller of Your Majesty's Stationery Office for destruction.

Suggestions have been received from Your Majesty's Office of Works touching the destruction of documents of the Insolvent Debtors' Court at Somerset House, in order to give more space

to the Inland Revenue Department. As, however, the particular documents have not yet been included in any Schedule, and as the Senior Registrar in Bankruptcy had not expressed any desire to have them included, the Inspecting Officers did not take any action in the matter.

In sorting the Journals and Logs of the Royal Navy for the purposes of the Schedule in which those of no value are included for destruction, discoveries continue to be made of valuable Logs, &c. not previously known to exist.

Application having been received from Your Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from the President of the Board of Agriculture, and from the Registrar of Friendly Societies, for an extension of the rules made by the Master of the Rolls under the above-mentioned Act, to their Departments, a new rule was made and approved as appears below :—

“I, the Right Honourable William Baliol, Baron Esher of Esher, in the county of Surrey, Master of the Rolls, in exercise of the power conferred upon me by the first section of the Public Record Office Act, 1877, do hereby make the Rule following :—

“The Rules made by me of which Her Majesty declared Her approbation by Order in Council on the 30th day of June 1890 shall extend to documents of the Department of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Board of Agriculture, and of the Registry of Friendly Societies.

“11th June 1895.

“ESHES, M.R.

“The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury approve of this Rule.

“RICH'D. K. CAUSTON.

“W. A. McARTHUR.

“Further approved by the heads of the following departments :

“Foreign Office, KIMBERLEY.

“Board of Agriculture, HERBERT GARDNER.

“Registry of Friendly Societies, EDWARD W. BRABROOK.”

§ X. CALENDARS PUBLISHED.

CALENDAR OF THE PATENT ROLLS, preserved in the Public Record Office, prepared under the superintendence of the Deputy Keeper of the Records.

Three volumes of this new series were published in 1895 :—

Edward I. 1292–1301.—This volume was prepared by Mr. J. G. Black, B.A. of the Public Record Office.

Edward III. 1334–1338.—This volume was prepared by Mr. R. F. Isaacson of the Public Record Office.

Richard II. 1377–1381.—This volume was prepared by Mr. G. J. Morris, M.A. of the Public Record Office.

CALENDAR OF THE CLOSE ROLLS, preserved in the Public Record Office, prepared under the superintendence of the Deputy Keeper of the Records.

One volume of this new series was published in 1895 :—

Edward II. 1318–1323.—This volume was prepared by Mr. W. H. Stevenson.

CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS, DOMESTIC SERIES, OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES II. preserved in the Public Record Office. Edited by Mary Anne Everett Green. 1670. With Addenda, 1660–1670.

With this volume the late Mrs. Green brought her work on the State Papers of the reign of Charles II. to a close, in accordance with the arrangement made in 1892, that Mr. F. H. Blackburne Daniell should continue the Calendar from the year 1671 downwards. The Addenda papers fill nearly one hundred pages, and consist of documents which had been misplaced in the collection; or were for other reasons not forthcoming when the earlier volumes in the series were being prepared for press. Among other interesting matter in them, there is a detailed description of the great fire, and an account of the sale of the pictures and furniture of Charles I.

CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS, DOMESTIC SERIES, OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES II., January to November, 1671, preserved in the Public Record Office. Edited by F. H. Blackburne Daniell, M.A.

The contents of this volume differ slightly from those of the preceding volumes issued under the editorship of Mrs. Everett Green. The Levant Papers are no longer included, but the other documents calendared are largely increased by the addition of the Irish State Papers and of the Signet Books, which consist chiefly of copies of letters to different officials in Ireland.

CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS, DOMESTIC SERIES, OF THE REIGN OF WILLIAM AND MARY, 13th February, 1689—April, 1690, preserved in the Public Record Office. Edited by William John Hardy, F.S.A.

In this first volume of Calendar dealing with papers relating to events immediately after the Revolution there are few allusions to the all-important changes which had taken place within a few months. The documents relating to the condition of finance, the army, and the navy, are specially deserving of attention. Of greatest

historical importance are perhaps the papers relating to General Kirke's expedition for the relief of Londonderry and to the operations of King William's army in Ireland generally, under Schomberg's command; the correspondence about the Jacobite rising in the Highlands, and the death of Dundee. A large number of documents relating to continental affairs have been found in the series of Domestic State Papers, chiefly among those formerly preserved in the King's private cabinet, known as "King William's Chest." Noticeable among those of which abstracts appear in this volume are the Earl of Portland's letters on the affairs of Holland, and the details given by the Prince of Waldeck of the progress of the allied forces on the Continent.

CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS, RELATING TO IRELAND, OF THE REIGN OF ELIZABETH, 1598, January—1599, March, preserved in the Public Record Office. Edited by Ernest George Atkinson.

This volume covers a period of fifteen months only, the most important event occurring within the time upon which new light is thrown by the documents being the defeat of Sir Henry Bagenall by the rebels, near Armagh. This and other reported "overthrows" of the Queen's forces seem to have produced the most marked effect in the province of Munster, the President of which, Sir Thomas Norreys, was continually reporting the excesses committed by the rebels, and asking for reinforcements and supplies. The disgraceful treatment by their officers of the English soldiers sent over to quell the rebellion, in the matter of diet, lodging, and care of such of them as were ill or wounded, is illustrated in many curious papers.

CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS AND MANUSCRIPTS RELATING TO ENGLISH AFFAIRS, existing in the Archives and Collections of VENICE and in other Libraries of NORTHERN ITALY. Vol. VIII. 1581-1591. Edited by Horatio F. Brown.

The papers calendared exist in the the State Archives at the Frari, and in the Marcian Library, at Venice. During the period covered by this volume the Republic maintained no ambassador in London; and the chief sources of information concerning England are the despatches from Spain, France, and Constantinople, the minutes of the Senate, and the series of news books. The three main lines of English history illustrated by these means are the relations between England and France on the subjects of Elizabeth's proposed marriage with the Duke of Alençon, and the death of Mary, Queen of Scots;

Drake's operations in the West Indies, at the Azores, and on the Spanish seaboard, and the destruction of the Armada; and the missions of William Harborne and Edward Barton to the Porte.

CALENDAR OF LETTERS, DESPATCHES, AND STATE PAPERS, RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND SPAIN, preserved at Simancas and elsewhere. Edited by Don Pascual de Gayangos. Vol. VI. Part II. Henry VIII. 1542-1543.

The long negotiations for a treaty of closer alliance with England, conducted by the Imperial resident Ambassador and his colleagues, form the almost exclusive subject of the present volume. The letters of the Queen of Hungary and of the Emperor to Eustace Chapuys, and those of Chapuys himself, fill the most important part.

CALENDAR OF ENTRIES IN THE PAPAL REGISTERS, RELATING TO GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. Papal Letters. Vol. II. 1305-1342. Edited by W. H. Bliss, B.C.L.

The text of the present volume has been prepared upon the system described in the preface to the first volume of this series of Calendars. Greater liberty has, however, been taken in the rendering of proper names. The entries in the registers being, for the most part, based upon petitions and other documents from different countries, the scribes constantly misread doubtful letters, having no local or personal knowledge to guide them.

§ XI LISTS AND INDEXES PUBLISHED.

Although considerable progress has been made with several works belonging to this series, as mentioned above (§ V.), no List was completed at press during the year 1895.

§ XII. CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND DURING THE MIDDLE AGES.

The following volume was issued in 1895 :—

CHRONICLE OF HENRY KNIGHTON, Canon of Leicester. Edited by the Rev. Joseph Rawson Lumby, D.D. Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge. Vol. II. (Publication sanctioned in 1885.) This volume, which completes the work, deals with the period between the years 1337 and 1395 inclusive, but there is an

unfortunate gap for the ten years between 1366 and 1377, and the events of some other years are noticed very briefly. The editor has added a general Introduction and an Index to the two volumes.

The number of volumes of the Chronicles and Memorials sold for Your Majesty's Stationery Office during the year 1895 was 657, making a total of 54,708.

At the end of the year there were four works belonging to this series in the press, all of which were sanctioned before my appointment to be Deputy Keeper of the Records :—

YEAR BOOKS OF THE REIGN OF EDWARD III. Vol. VII. Edited and translated by Luke Owen Pike, M.A. Barrister-at-Law. (Publication sanctioned in 1879.)

RANULF DE GLANVILL; TRACTATUS DE LEGIBUS ET CONSUECUDINIBUS ANGLIÆ. Edited and translated by Sir Travers Twiss, Q.C., D.C.L. (Publication sanctioned in 1884.)

THE RED BOOK OF THE EXCHEQUER. Edited by Hubert Hall, F.S.A. of the Public Record Office. Parts I. II. and III. (Publication sanctioned in 1885.)

MEMORIALS OF ST. EDMUND'S ABBEY. Edited by Thomas Arnold, M.A. Vol. III. (Publication sanctioned in 1885.)

§ XIII. MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS.

ACTS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF ENGLAND. New series Vol. X. A.D. 1577-1578. Vol. XI. A.D. 1578-1580. Edited by John Roche Dasent, C.B. Barrister-at Law, M.A.

The publication of these two volumes in 1895 shows that this series is making very satisfactory progress.

§ XIV. RESEARCHES IN FOREIGN ARCHIVES.

ROME :

Mr. W. H. Bliss has continued his researches in the archives of the Vatican, being engaged upon the following works :—

CALENDAR OF ENTRIES IN THE PAPAL REGISTERS, RELATING TO GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. PAPAL LETTERS, VOL. II. A.D. 1305-1342.

This was published in 1895. (*See* § X.)

CALENDAR OF ENTRIES IN THE PAPAL REGISTERS,
RELATING TO GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.
PETITIONS TO THE POPE. VOL. I. A.D. 1342-1419.

The printing of the text was completed in 1895, and the Index was in type at the end of the year.

CALENDAR OF ENTRIES IN THE PAPAL REGISTERS,
RELATING TO GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. PAPAL
LETTERS, VOL. III. A.D. 1342-1362.

Two sheets of this were printed in 1895, and three more sheets were in type at the end of the year.

VENICE:

Mr. Horatio F. Brown has continued his researches in the Venetian archives. A volume of his Calendar of documents and entries relating to English affairs was published in 1895. (*See* § X.). Some material for the next volume was received from him in the latter part of the year.

SPAIN, BRUSSELS, and VIENNA:

Don Pascual de Gayangos has continued his researches. Another volume of his Calendar of documents relating to English affairs was published in 1895. (*See* § X.)

Major Martin A. S. Hume has made considerable progress with his Calendar of documents in Spain relating to English affairs between the years 1580 and 1586.

FRANCE:

Transcripts of certain despatches from French ambassadors in England have been made at Paris, in order to fill up gaps in the series formed for this Office by the late M. Armand Baschet between the years 1870 and 1885.

Mr. J. H. Round has been authorised to prepare a Calendar of early documents in France relating to England. His work will be founded upon the series of transcripts made for the old Record Commission and now preserved in this Office, but an examination of original manuscripts at Paris, in Normandy, and elsewhere will also be necessary.

§ XV. HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

The work of this Commission has, as in former years, been conducted at Rolls House and in the Public Record Office, the Deputy Keeper of the Records being the Acting Commissioner, and the Secretary of the Public Record Office being the Secretary.

Some of the Clerks of the Public Record Office have been employed in calendaring the Cecil Manuscripts of the reign of Elizabeth from Hatfield House, out of office hours, and others have, also out of office hours, compiled indexes to the Calendars and Reports issued by the Commissioners.

All which is humbly submitted to Your Majesty.

Dated this 15th day of August, 1896.

(Signed) H. C. MAXWELL LYTE.

I humbly certify to Your Majesty that this Report is made by the Deputy Keeper of the Records, pursuant to the 17th section of the Statute 1 & 2 Vict. c. 94.

(Signed) ESHER, M.R.

Masters of the Rolls. Lists of -

See also Duffus Hardy publishes a list of Lord Chancellors, Keepers of the Seal - Masters of the Rolls &c. see N^o 1, Sept 1908
N^o 1, Sept 1908
Missy & Herts N^o 1 Q April 1896 page 55
a list is also given but imperfect in the same book N^o 1 Q p 49-55 - also this book - also Antiquary April 1896 p 113 & c.
see also Mr. Lombard who dies 19 augst 1601.
see Thorpes Reference II 868 & 958.

NB Full Copy see "Catalogue of MSS in the Museum of the Public Record Office by Sir H. C. Maxwell Lyte Deputy Keeper London 1904 40 page 1.
See also "Report on Forfeiting MSS" Record Office Report XV 11 appx XI - 1906 page 58 to 87.

APPENDIX.

THE ROLLS CHAPEL.

The building recently known as the Rolls Chapel was originally the Chapel of the House of Converts, which was founded by Henry III. for the reception of Jews who had embraced the Christian faith. The annals of that establishment offer various points of interest; but, in the present Report, I propose to deal with those facts only which concern the Chapel.¹

The earliest specific reference to the House of Converts occurs in a royal charter dated 16th January 1232, by which the founder assigned a yearly sum of 700 marks for the maintenance of the inmates, "and for the construction of their church and their buildings."² Three months later, he made provision for two chaplains celebrating divine service in the chapel which he had caused to be erected (*erigi*) for the use of the converts, which implies that the building was at any rate begun.³

Matthew Paris, the chronicler of St. Albans, states that Henry III., about November, in the seventeenth year of his reign, 1233, built at his own expense "a certain church proper" and sufficient for a conventual congregation with some adjoining "buildings" at the place where he established the House of Converts in London, not far from the Old Temple.⁴ Opposite to this passage, there is in the margin of the MS. at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, a coloured drawing of a small church, which has been supposed to be an actual representation of the Chapel of the House of Converts as it existed between 1233 and 1259, the year of the chronicler's death.⁵ It certainly corresponds with the building in question in so far as it shows a nave of three bays, with a square turret projecting southward at the eastern end of it, and a short chancel with lancet windows, but other details have evidently been supplied from memory or from imagination. It should, moreover, be observed that the drawing near the corresponding passage in the shorter Chronicle of Matthew Paris, preserved in the British Museum, is somewhat different.⁶ Furthermore, the architectural evidence throws some doubt upon the theory that the turret was part of the original fabric, as will be seen later in this Report.

The original design of the chapel appears to have been altered as early as 1275, for, in that year, Edward I. authorised John de

¹ Many particulars concerning the inmates of the House of Converts have been given by Mr. W. J. Hardy in a paper printed in "Middlesex and Hertfordshire Notes and Queries."

² Charter Roll, 16 Hen. III. m. 18 (printed in Rymer's "Fœdera," vol. i. p. 201).

³ Close Roll, 16 Hen. III. m. 14.

⁴ "Chronica Majora," (ed. Luard) vol. iii. p. 262.

⁵ A woodcut is given in Mr. Hardy's paper.

⁶ Royal MS. 14 C. VII. f. 121.

Full list of Keepers - Samuel Cure matter is in
Mid IX Kent NTQ
aple 1896
II p 49
+ 1895 p 73
vol I

see in Paris
Plumbe
III 262

name of the Small Drawing in my copy
of Mid IX Kent NTQ Vol II p 49
1896 p 47 f 58.

St. Denys, keeper of the House of Converts, to take stone from the side aisles of their chapel of the Holy Trinity, in order to extend the body thereof lengthways (*linealiter*).¹ The light of the Holy Trinity in the chapel of the Converts is mentioned in the will of one of the chaplains called Hugh le Convers, which was proved in 1274.² The Chapel, however, appears to have been dedicated to the Virgin Mary.³ Edward I. Edward II. and Edward III. alike made grants for the maintenance and adornment of the fabric.⁴

Out of nine persons who were keepers of the House of Converts between 1307 and 1377, no less than eight were also keepers of the Rolls of Chancery,⁵ their secular services to the Crown being thus rewarded, in part at least, out of ecclesiastical revenues, and the arrangement proved so convenient that Edward III. in the last year of his reign, definitely assigned the House of Converts to the clerk for the time being in charge of the Rolls of Chancery, granting the patronage of the offices thus amalgamated to the Chancellor of England or the Keeper of the Great Seal. His letters patent, dated 1377, recite that William de Burstall, the then keeper, had found the House, the Chapel, and other buildings in a ruinous state (*quasi totaliter in ruina*), and that he had spent a considerable amount of his own money in repairing them.⁶ This union of the two keeperships, so different in character, was, at the request of Burstall and his successor, confirmed in the following reign.⁷ Thenceforward, the Chapel of the House of Converts came to be known popularly as the Rolls Chapel.

Dr. John Yong, Master of the Rolls and Dean of York, who died in 1516, left directions in his will that his body should "be buried in the chapell of the Rollys," and "that a tombe" should "be made over the place of" his "sepulture." Richard Alington of Lincoln's Inn, was buried in the Chapel in 1561, his wife being a sister of Sir William Cordell, Master of the Rolls, and she was probably buried in the same vault in 1604. The next interment recorded is that of Edward, Lord Bruce of Kinloss, Master of the Rolls, who died in 1611. In that year, his successor, Sir Edward Phelips, set up in the windows four panels of fine heraldic glass, and three more, uniform with them in size, were added in the later part of the seventeenth century. Marriages were sometimes performed in the Chapel, as in 1608, when William Cavendish, afterwards Earl of Devonshire, married Christiana, daughter of Edward, Lord Bruce of Kinloss, Master of the Rolls, and in 1615, when Sir Julius Cæsar, Master of the Rolls, married Mrs. Hungate, who was given away by her uncle,

¹ Close Roll, 3 Edw. I. m. 6.

² Sharpe's "Wills proved in the Hustings Court," vol. i. p. 17; Patent Roll, 9 Edw. II. part i. m. 20.

³ Patent Roll, 13 Edw. III. part ii. m. 32.

⁴ Patent Roll, 8 Edw. I. m. 15 (printed in "Fœdera," vol. i. p. 582); Close Roll, 7 Edw. II. m. 8 ("Fœdera," vol. ii. p. 247); Patent Roll, 4 Edw. III. part i. m. 45.

⁵ See Mr. Hardy's paper.

⁶ Patent Roll, 51 Edw. III. m. 9.

⁷ Ancient Petitions, no. 888; Patent Roll, 5 Ric. II. part. i. m. 22; Patent Roll, 6 Ric. II. part iii. m. 12.

see Elizabeth
Chancery to
Hemel Hempstead
19 May 1572
which he
signed

Sir Francis Bacon. The fact that a marriage between John Levingston and Mrs. Marwood took place at the Rolls in February 1619,¹ goes far to discredit the oft-repeated statement that the Chapel was being rebuilt at that time. For this statement there is no authority earlier than that of Thomas Pennant, who in his "Account of London," published in 1805, asserts that the Rolls Chapel "was built by Inigo Jones; begun in 1617, and finished at the expence of two thousand pounds," and proceeds to say that "it was consecrated by George Mounteigne, bishop of London, and the sermon preached by the famous Doctor Donne." Inasmuch as Mounteigne did not become Bishop of London until September 1621, the alleged consecration could not have taken place any earlier, and the Chapel would presumably have been unfit for use in February 1619. It is, however, practically certain that Pennant somehow confounded the Rolls Chapel with the neighbouring Chapel of Lincoln's Inn, for every one of the five statements quoted above with regard to the former proves to be true with regard to the latter. The rebuilding of Lincoln's Inn Chapel was undertaken in 1617, "the consideration of a fit model" for it was "commended to Mr. Inditho Jones," the estimate came to upwards of 2,000*l.*, the new structure was consecrated by Montaigne, Bishop of London, on Ascension Day 1623, and the sermon on that occasion was preached by Dr. Donne, Dean of St. Paul's.² There is, in fact, no evidence whatever to connect Inigo Jones with the Rolls Chapel, and the episcopal registers of the time do not contain any allusion to the alleged consecration. That the building was to a great extent reconstructed in the seventeenth century is unquestionable, but the date of the work is probably forty or fifty years later than that erroneously assigned to it by Pennant.

The existence of two chaplains and of converts from Judaism, four in number, is mentioned for the last time in 1608, and in the reign of Charles I. we read of a preacher at the Rolls during the law term, admitted by the Master of the Rolls with the approbation of the six Clerks of Chancery.³ Although the converts for whose benefit the Chapel had been founded by Henry III. had ceased to exist, the Master of the Rolls did not obtain the exclusive use of it. In 1708, it was reported that the preacher received 10*l.* a term from the Master of the Rolls, and that the salary was made up to about 100*l.* a year by the Masters in Chancery.⁴ As late as the beginning of the present reign, "the Masters, six Clerks, Registrars, and other officers" of the Court of Chancery were entitled to seats in the Rolls Chapel, on payment of fees amounting to about 49*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* a year, to the preacher, who also received rents for pews let "to persons not entitled to seats."⁵

¹ State Papers, Domestic, James I. Vol. 105, Nos. 71, 83, 103, 124.

² Spilisbury's "Lincoln's Inn," pp. 66, 81; State Papers, Domestic, James I. Vol. 145, No. 65 (printed in "Court and Times of James the First," vol. ii. p. 402).

³ State Papers, Domestic, Charles I. Vol. 406, No. 58.

⁴ Hatton's "New View of London," p. 536.

⁵ 7 Will. IV. and 1 Vict. cap. 46.

Under the Presbyterian régime, it was resolved by the Lords and Commons in Parliament, in December 1645, "that the Chappell of the Rolls, the two Serjeants Innes and the fower Innes of Court shall be a Province of themselves," "that the Presbytery of the Chappell of the Rolls, the two Serjeants Innes and the fower Innes of Court shall be divided into two classis," and "that Lincolnes Inne, Grayes Inne and Serjeants Inne and (*sic*) Chancery Lane and the Rolls shall be one classis."¹

Almost immediately after the Restoration, the Master of the Rolls was empowered by Act of Parliament to grant leases of portions of his official estate; but "the Chappell of the Rolls" was specifically excepted from the scope of it, and there are indications elsewhere that it was regarded as national property.

At some time in the middle of the seventeenth century, the Rolls Chapel was seriously mutilated. No written record has been found showing the date or the nature of the work done, and we have to rely exclusively upon architectural evidence. From this it appears probable that the chancel was entirely demolished and a new wall built at the eastern end of the nave, that the other three walls were considerably altered, that a new roof was made over the nave, that most of the mediæval windows and doors were blocked up, and that two or three monuments and four or five panels of heraldic glass were taken down and refixed.

Particulars will be given later in this Report, but it may be desirable to suggest here that, if all these changes were made at one time, the date must be sought between 1648 and 1667. That it cannot be earlier than the middle of the seventeenth century seems clear from the general character of certain fragments of stone and marble which were used for filling up two of the windows on the south side. With a little trouble it has been found possible to put together several pieces of an oval shield, surrounded by scroll-work and stiff drapery, which bears the following arms:—On a chevron between three annulets, a crescent, impaling, on a saltire a rose; and this proves to be the shield of George Goring, Earl of Norwich, who married Mary, daughter of Edward Nevill, Lord Abergavenny. Inasmuch as both these persons were buried in Westminster Abbey, it is difficult to account for their arms being found at the Rolls Chapel, except upon the theory that the mason employed to fill up the windows supplemented the material which was ready to hand with useless fragments from his own workshop. However this may be, it is certain that the Countess of Norwich died in 1648 and the Earl in 1663, and so the former year appears to be the earliest possible date of the closing of the windows.

That the chancel had disappeared by 1667, is clear from Hollar's map of London, published in that year,² which is con-

¹ "Journals of the House of Lords," vol. viii. p. 50.

² The reduced facsimile in Loftie's "History of London" is taken from a unique copy in the Print Room of the British Museum.

firmed by the larger map issued by Ogilby and Morgan ten years later. It may possibly have been injured in the Great Fire of London, and consequently demolished. A letter received at Claydon House on the 9th of September 1666, contains the following passage:—"Your friends in Chancery Lane are safe, but " the fire was near them, behind the Rowles, where it gott a great " check, so that we hope it is stopt."¹ Among other premises which were either burned or pulled down at that time, mention is made of several tenements held by John Howe, gentleman, "situate " in Fetter Lane, built upon part of the garden called the Rolls " Garden;"² a messuage held by Benjamin Hill, citizen and clockmaker, "built upon a parcell of ground, parcell of the garden called the Rolls Garden;"³ "four new houses," on the west side of Fetter Lane, "over against unto a certain stret called New Street," and extending westwards from 106 to 123 feet "to the wall of the said Rolls Garden;"⁴ and also the St. John's Head tavern in Chancery Lane, upon the estate of the Bishop of Chichester.⁵

In this connexion it may be mentioned that some fragments of wrought stone work not older than the fifteenth century, which were found in the walls of the chapel, show signs of having been exposed to the action of fire. At the same time it is clear from other fragments that the interior cannot have been burned, and Hollar's map, already mentioned, shows trees growing in the Rolls Garden. Furthermore, a date somewhat earlier than 1666 for the removal of the monuments is suggested by the fact that some hexameter lines in praise of Dr. Yong, which are given in Weaver's *Funeral Monuments*, which was published in 1631, are not mentioned in the first edition of Dugdale's *Origines Juridicales* which was printed shortly before the Great Fire of London.

Edward Stillingfleet, who afterwards became Bishop of Worcester, was Preacher at the Rolls in 1664. Eleven years later, Gilbert Burnet was appointed to that office, but he was ejected from it under somewhat remarkable circumstances. Having occasion to preach in the Chapel on the Fifth of November 1684, on the anniversary of the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot, he took as his text "Save me from the lion's mouth, thou that hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns." According to his own positive statement he "made no reflection" on "the two supporters of the King's scutcheon," but he showed "how well popery might be compared to the lion's mouth," and mentioned "that wish of King James the First against any of his posterity " that should endeavour to bring that religion in among us." A report of the sermon was carried to the Court, and there the text was thought to be "levelled against the King's coat of arms."

¹ For this extract I am indebted to the kindness of Lady Verney.

² Fire Decrees at the Guildhall, vol. i. f. 507.

³ Add. MS. in the British Museum, 5064, f. 258.

⁴ Add. MS. 5063, f. 192.

⁵ Add. MS. 5067, f. 301.

Accordingly, at the end of the law-term, the Lord Keeper wrote to Sir Harbottle Grimston, Master of the Rolls, saying "that the King considered the Chapel of the Rolls as one of his own chapels," and that having dismissed Burnet from the Court "as a person disaffected to his government," he would not have him suffered "to serve any longer in that chapel." Burnet adds that his "employment at the Rolls would have fallen in course within a month if the Court had delayed" his ejection "from it in such an open manner, for that worthy man, Sir Harbottle Grimston, died about Christmas."¹ This explanation is interesting as showing that the position of Preacher at the Rolls was not regarded as a benefice, and that it naturally determined upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of the Master of the Rolls.

Two other eminent preachers at the Rolls deserve a passing notice in this place—Francis Atterbury, who was appointed in 1709, and Joseph Butler, who was appointed in 1718. It may also be well to state that, although a Liberty of the Rolls is mentioned in 1664,² the Rolls Estate is often described in documents of much later date as being in the parish of St. Dunstan in the West, and that it was in the church of St. Dunstan that Sir Harbottle Grimston and other officers of the Court of Chancery made their formal communion soon after the passing of the Test Act.³

In "A New View of London," by E. Hatton, published in 1708, we read:—"The Chapel is an ancient structure, built of brick, boulder, and some freestone (the doors and windows are of the Gothic order), roof covered with slate. The ornament of the presses for Rolls on the inside is columns and pilasters of the Ionic and composite orders. It is in le[n]gth 60 foot, br[eath] 33." The writer proceeds to mention the monuments, and adds that "at the N.W. angle of this chapel is a bench, &c. where the Master of the Rolls hears causes in Chancery out of term time."

John Strype, in his edition of Stow's "Survey of London," mentions "the old and decayed house" of the Rolls as "much wanting new building" and expresses an opinion that the chapel also "would admit of new building." This was published in 1720; but it must have been written some years earlier, for in 1717, Colin Campbell, the architect, was appointed "to pull down the House of Converted Jews in Chancery Lane and build a new edifice for the use of the Master of the Rolls, and likewise to repair and improve the Chappel of the Rolls and other appurtenances of the said House." The whole cost of building the Rolls House between the years 1717 and 1724 inclusive, was defrayed out of the Exchequer; but although minute accounts have been preserved of the expenditure on labour and materials, they do not afford any information as to the exact nature of the

¹ "History of his Own Times." Sir Harbottle Grimston died 2 January 1685.

² "Middlesex Records" (ed. Jeaffreson), vol. iii. p. 337.

³ 20 April, 1673. Harl. MS. 1472.

alterations then made in the Chapel.¹ Architectural evidence, however, shows that Colin Campbell must have been instructed to connect the Rolls House with the Chapel, so that the Master of the Rolls and his family might be able to attend divine service without going out of doors. This he did, by erecting between them a small lobby, over a narrow vaulted passage sloping down eastwards from Rolls Yard to the basement of the new mansion, and by cutting a large arched opening through the north wall of the Chapel. The latter operation involved the destruction of the lower part of the only remaining lancet window of the thirteenth century, and the closing of the upper part. Inasmuch as the floor of the lobby was several feet above the pavement of the Chapel, there were no means of communication from the one to the other; but a raised pew was provided for the Master of the Rolls, which formed a sort of gallery projecting from the north wall of the Chapel and accessible only through the lobby. It was probably at this date that a Gothic doorway on the north side of the chapel was demolished, and a new entrance substituted for it at the west end of the building, almost opposite to the gateway from Chancery Lane into Rolls Yard.

An engraving by B. Cole in the 1756 edition of Maitland's "History of London," shows that at that date there was only one window in the south wall of the Rolls Chapel, the two eastern ones having been blocked up as mentioned above. The turret still had a low four-sided spire, and there were two buttresses dividing the south wall into three bays. These buttresses, however, were removed, and the turret was altogether hidden from view, when, pursuant to an address of the House of Commons, in 1784, a building was erected immediately south of the Chapel, for the use of the Clerk of the Records in the Rolls Chapel, and of the Secretaries of the Master of the Rolls.² Then, or very soon afterwards, a thin external layer of flints was placed over all those rubble walls which were not protected from the weather by adjoining buildings.

There is no record of the date at which the Chapel of the House of Converts began to be used as a repository of the national archives. The proper place for the permanent preservation of the rolls of Chancery was the Tower of London, and thither they were from time to time transmitted.³ Some were, however, temporarily kept at the residence of their custodian,⁴ and it is probable that the number of these increased after the assignment of the House of Converts to the Keeper of the Rolls of Chancery in the later part of the fourteenth century. The earliest reference to the House of Converts in this connexion is in 1558, when a sum of 50*l.* was paid to the Master of the Rolls, "for so

¹ Audit Office Declared Accounts, bundle 2494, roll 407.

² "Journals of the House of Commons," vol. xl. pp. 419, 427.

³ Close Rolls, 11 Edw. III. part 2, m. 23, and 14 Edw. III. part 2, m. 10*d.*

⁴ Close Roll, 15 Edw. III. part 1, m. 34*d.* (printed in "Fœdera," vol. ii. p. 1151.)

"much by him bestowed upon the making of presses to kepe the recordes in the Rolles," but the Chapel is not specifically mentioned.¹

Nine years later, Queen Elizabeth, considering that it was not meet that the records of her Chancery, which were accounted a principal member of the treasure belonging to herself, and to her crown and realm, should remain in private houses, directed Sir William Cordell, Master of the Rolls, to deliver to the keeper of the records in the Tower of London all the rolls and records of the Chancery from the reign of Richard III. to that of Edward VI. inclusive.²

It is clear, however, that this mandate was for some reason disregarded. John Stow, writing in 1598, mentions "a fair church now used and called the chapel for the custody of the rolles and records of Chauncerie."³ Powell's "Directions for Search of Records," published in 1622, states that certain information must be sought "in the Chapele of the Rolls,"⁴ and again, in 1645, we read that the Decrees in Chancery were kept there.⁵ In 1671, and afterwards in 1712, some Chancery Bills and Answers were ordered to be sent to the Tower of London, not avowedly because that was the proper place for them, but because there was "no place in the Chapel of the Rolls to lay the same in."⁶

From a return made by the Clerk of the Chapel of the Rolls in 1731, it appears that he had the actual custody of the principal records of the Chancery from the reign of Richard III. to that of William III. Some of these were kept in five presses "conveniently placed in the body of the chapel" against the walls, others "in several benches in the body of the chapel," and others again "in a large room over the chapel," partly on shelves and partly on the floor. Although he himself appears to have been fairly satisfied with the condition of things, a Committee of the House of Commons reported that the documents in the Chapel were "exposed too much to the heat of the sun in the summer season, and to dampness in the winter."⁷

Another Committee of the House of Commons reported, in 1772, that the records in the Chapel were "in danger of destruction, by being placed close to the walls" which were damp, and that those in the room over the Chapel were "continually receiving injuries" from rain and heat alike, and that the floor would scarcely bear their weight. They therefore recommended "that the body of the said Chapel or such part thereof as may be found necessary" should "be forthwith fitted up for receiving

¹ State Papers, Domestic, Doequets, vol. i.

² Ayloffe's "Calendar of Ancient Charters," p. xxviii.

³ "Survey of London."

⁴ Page 13.

⁵ "Sixth Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission," App. p. 64.

⁶ "Reports from Committees of the House of Commons," vol. i. pp. 534, 535.

⁷ *Ibid.* pp. 446, 529, 521.

"the same records, so as to prevent further damage to the same, leaving a sufficient space for the celebration of divine service," and the House resolved that an address should be presented to the King, praying that he would give directions "for the better preservation of the records in the Rolls Chapel."¹ A great part of the body of the Chapel was accordingly fitted up with presses soon afterwards, and the house built on the south side of the Chapel about fifteen years later was utilised for searches and copying.²

In 1833, Sir Robert Inglis and Mr. Hallam visited the Rolls Chapel, on behalf of their colleagues on the Record Commission, and drew up the following statement:—

"It was fitted up in 1812 by the late Sir Thomas Plumer, when Master, and exhibits a most remarkable specimen of the extremest economy of space, the very seats of the Chapel being in fact cases for Records; and access to the Records in the upper part of the Chapel being by a gallery so narrow that the ladder necessary to mount higher can hardly be placed in safety.

"On the ground floor are the Patent Rolls, in a spot so dark that no one can see to read any one there; and a candle is properly not allowed. They can be removed, therefore, only by guess matured into habit. On the ground floor are also some of the early Close Rolls.

"In the gallery, and the room above, are the other Close Rolls.

"In the room above are also the Parliament Rolls, and the Decrees of the Court, from the beginning of the reign of George III. There is some space, but there would be danger in further loading the floor.

"In a narrow passage round this room are Inquisitions Post Mortem, scarcely accessible; some are repairing and binding. There are here also Confirmation Rolls."³

If, as stated above, the Chapel was fitted up by Sir Thomas Plumer, the date—1812—cannot be correct, as he did not become Master of the Rolls until 1818. The true date is probably 1821. At any rate, it was between 1820 and 1824 that heraldic glass was provided for the east window.

An important change was made in 1837, by a statute which enacted that the whole of the Rolls estate, including the Chapel, should thenceforth be vested in the Crown, and should not again be granted to the Master of the Rolls for the time being. Provision was, however, made for the performance of divine worship "in the said present chapel, or upon, or near the site thereof," a yearly sum of 225*l.* for the salaries of the preacher, the reader, and the clerk, being charged upon the Consolidated Fund.⁴ The Act does not clearly specify the person or persons

¹ "Journals of the House of Commons," vol. xxxiii. p. 791.

² "Report from the Select Committee on the Public Records," 1800, p. 88.

³ "Proceedings of the Commissioners on the Public Records," p. 283.

⁴ 7 Will. IV. and 1 Vict. cap. 46.

for whose benefit the religious services were to be maintained. The Master of the Rolls was, indeed, entrusted with the apportionment of the yearly grant of 225*l.*; but, on giving up the titular office of Keeper of the House of Converts, he lost the right to live on the premises in the building known as the Rolls House. Nevertheless, the letters patent issued in favour of Sir John Romilly, in 1851, being inadvertently modelled on the form used on previous occasions, professed to grant to him for life "the custody of the House, or Hospital, of Converts, for the habitation of the Keeper, or Master, of the Rolls, Books, Writs, and Records" of the High Court of Chancery. The mistake was not repeated in 1873, when Sir George Jessel was appointed Master of the Rolls without reference to the House of Converts.

Sir Francis Palgrave, the first Deputy Keeper of the Records, describes the Rolls Chapel, in 1842, as "becoming more and more inconveniently crowded" with documents, and mentions some recent alterations made by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests "in the dark passages under the galleries containing the Patent and Close Rolls, for the purpose of admitting more light and air," by the substitution of iron gratings for the floor boards of the galleries.¹ Four years later, he describes the presses for records as "partly standing against the walls, and partly at a small distance from them." The Chapel was at that time "ceiled with stucco, in imitation of stone," and the space between the ceiling and the timber roof above was "filled with documents."² Some new racks were erected "in the Record room in the roof of the Rolls Chapel" in 1846,³ and transmissions of documents from the House of Lords, from the Petty Bag Office, from the Enrolment Office, and from other places, continued to be made to the Rolls Chapel until 1859.⁴

Soon after the completion of the first block of the Public Record Office, in 1856, the records of the Chancery, previously kept at the Tower of London, were removed into it, and these were followed, within the next few years, by successive instalments of analogous but later documents from the Rolls Chapel.⁵ By the end of 1861, consequently, there were no records left in the body of the Chapel.⁶ The last to remain were those which were stowed away in lockers, which, on Sundays in term time, served as seats for some of the congregation. The room in the roof was not finally cleared until 1895.

In the meantime, soon after the removal of the principal series of Records from the body of the Chapel, the Office of Works and Public Buildings undertook extensive alterations therein. The

¹ "Third Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records," pp. 15, 25.

² "Seventh Report," p. 28.

³ "Eighth Report," p. 15; "Ninth Report," p. 4.

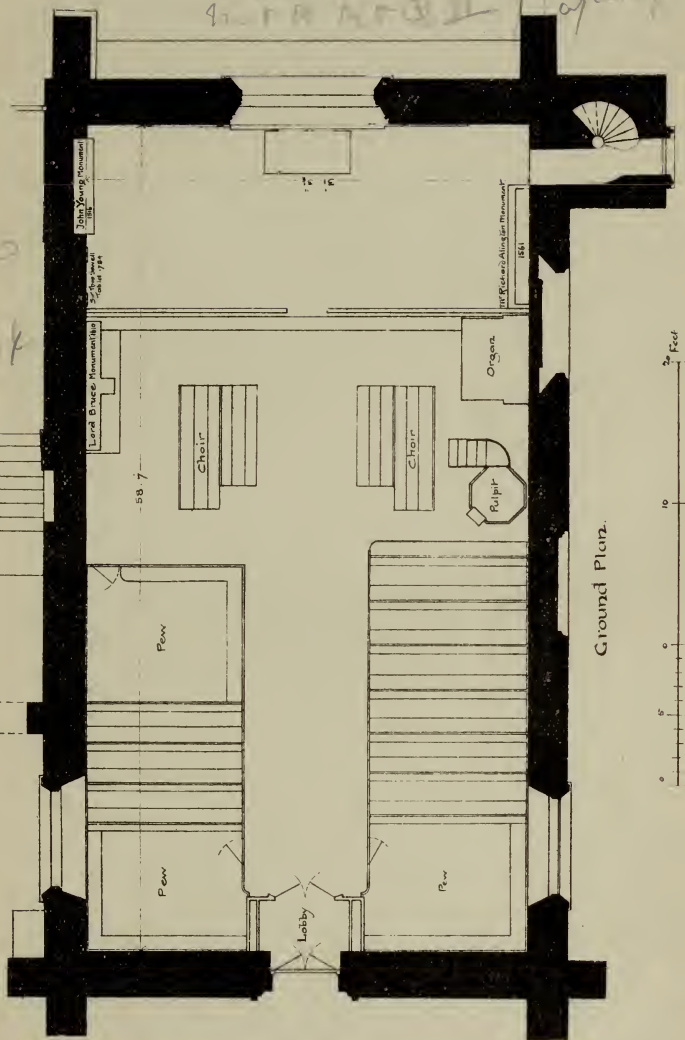
⁴ "Twenty-first Report," App., p. 48. Some Rolls of Parliament were received as late as 1860. "Twenty-second Report," App. p. 54.

⁵ "Eighteenth Report," p. 3; "Nineteenth Report," p. 2; "Twentieth Report," p. 6; "Twenty-first Report," p. 7.

⁶ "Twenty-third Report," p. 38.

ROLLS CHAPEL
CHANCERY LANE WC

Rolls House



Ground Plan.

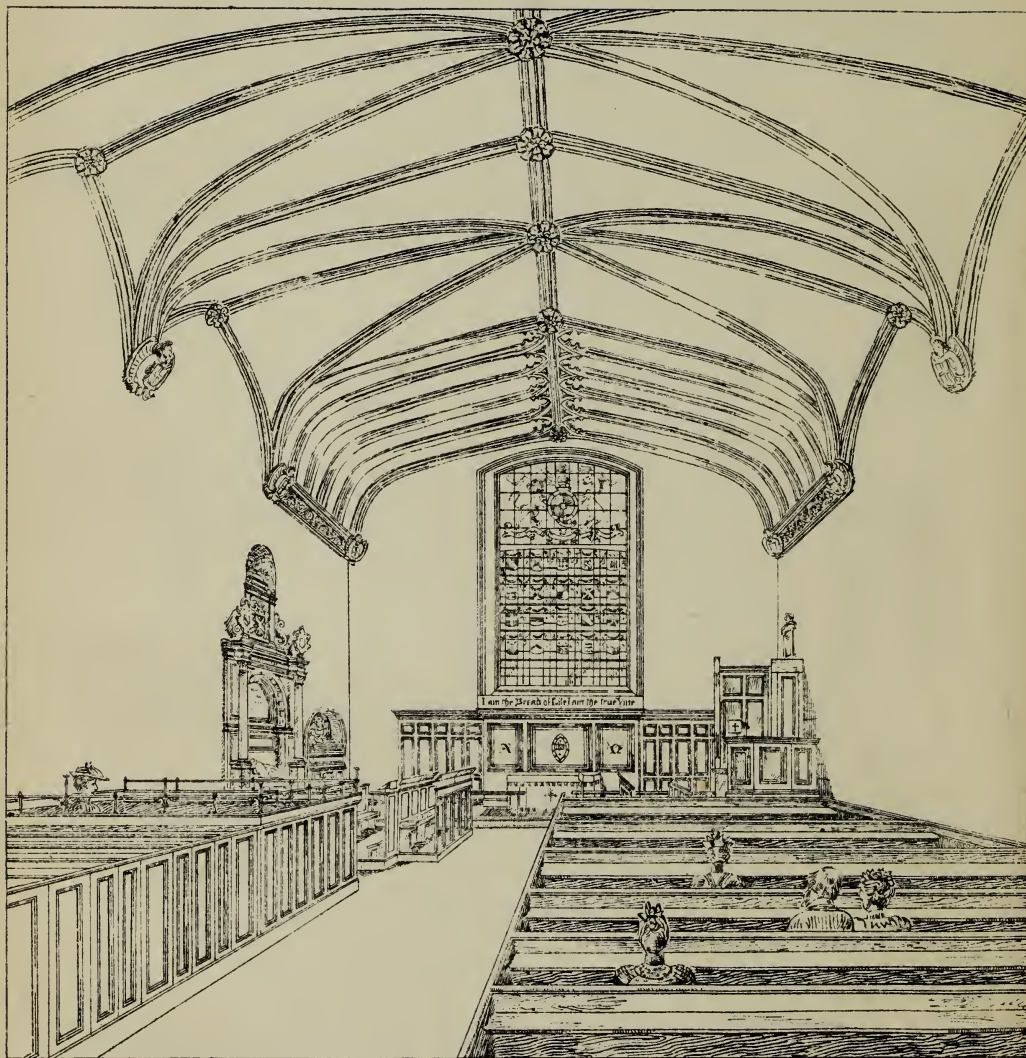
To face p. 28.

see p 22

see plan
Lobby
Choir stall
head etc
in p 22 & 23 II

Plan II
of 1846

To face p. 29.



Wyman & Sons, Ltd, Lith 8641.9.96

See also. Building
up 1895 p. 1240

galleries on the southern and western sides, the presses for Records, and the raised pew of the Master of the Rolls were alike taken down, and the arched opening into this pew was filled up. The pavement was for the most part relaid, new pews were provided, the inner walls were replastered and painted, and, in order to give an ecclesiastical character to the building, a vaulted roof, in the late Gothic style, was made of lath and plaster.

The foregoing account shows that the Rolls Chapel was used not only for divine worship, but also for the preservation of the records of Chancery. Its third character was that of a meeting-place for creditors and debtors. In 1641 it is mentioned as the place at which Charles I. was to repay a loan of 2,000*l.* made to him by Sir John Lambe,¹ and four years later a Mrs. Staveley sent her agents thither to receive the alimony which her husband had been ordered to pay.²

Recently, the Rolls Chapel was the place at which mortgagees or their representatives were ordered to wait for an hour, or sometimes for two hours, before proceeding to foreclosure. A representative of the Public Record Office had to be present, and the fees received by him for such attendances went to the credit of the Department. This anomalous system was terminated in December 1889, when the Lord Chancellor agreed to the substitution of a room in the Royal Courts of Justice for the Rolls Chapel as the trysting-place for mortgagors and mortgagees.³

Two years later, it was enacted that the yearly payment of 225*l.* for the expenses of the Rolls Chapel, which had been charged upon the Consolidated Fund in 1837, but which had in recent years been defrayed out of the Parliamentary Vote for Civil Services, should altogether cease on the next vacancy in the preachership.⁴ The House of the Converts from Judaism had long since disappeared; the Master of the Rolls had surrendered his official estate to the Crown, and had furthermore severed his connexion with the Chancery on becoming a judge of the Court of Appeal; and the Masters in Chancery had been abolished. There was therefore no normal congregation on Sundays, and the number of strangers attending morning prayer was rarely more than five, while it was often two or even one. No service has been performed in the Chapel since the Long Vacation of 1895.

The result of successive repairs and alterations at the Rolls Chapel was that, seven years ago, there was not a particle of mediæval work visible within or without. The inner roof was of lath and plaster, put up about forty years ago, and the inner walls were lined throughout with plaster. The external walls were covered with a thin layer of flint, except in places where there were patches of comparatively modern brick, stone, and stucco. The buttresses had been removed or mutilated, and the four large

¹ State Papers, Domestic, Charles I. Vol. 487, No. 5.

² "Sixth Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission," App. p. 53.

³ "Sixteenth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records," p. 15.

⁴ 54 & 55 Vict. cap. 24, s. 5.

windows were devoid of tracery. Altogether it was a mean and ugly building, entirely without architectural merit, and interesting mainly on account of its monuments and its panels of stained glass. Even these could not be properly seen, the former being in the eastern part of the Chapel, which was very dark on the brightest day in summer, and the best glass being high up in the western window.

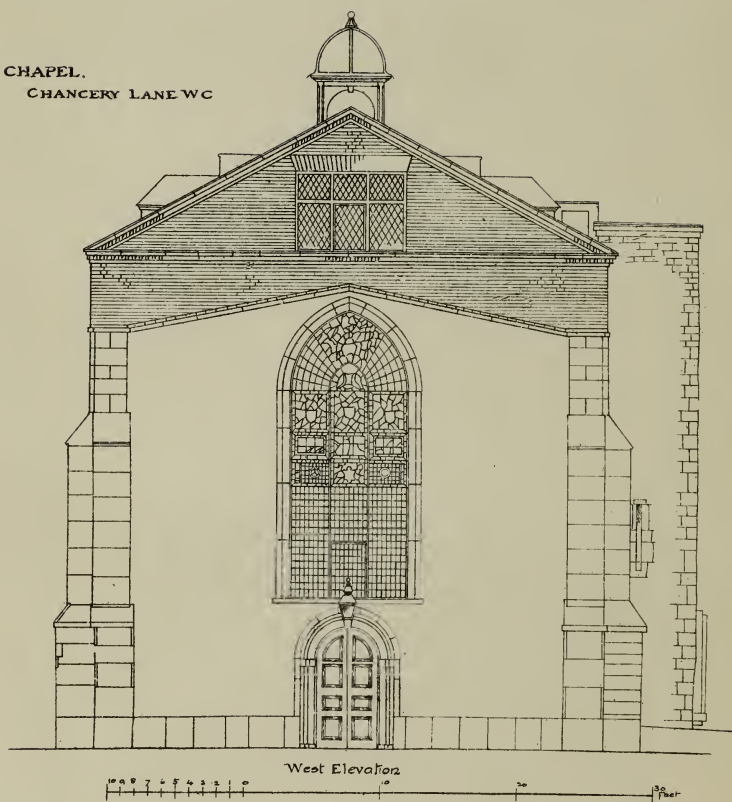
In 1889, the house known as 1, Rolls Yard, which adjoined the south side of the Chapel, was demolished, and the removal of it disclosed some features of which the existence was not previously known. Further operations were carried on in 1895, with a view to finding mediæval remains and ascertaining what portions, if any, of the structure could be retained. The Act of 1837, already quoted, clearly contemplated a possible demolition of the Chapel,¹ and in the plans for the Public Record Office made by Sir James Pennethorne in 1850, the whole site of the Chapel had been allocated to rooms intended to serve as repositories of documents. On further consideration however, it was thought that it might be possible to incorporate the Chapel in the new block of the Public Record Office, removing only the roof, which, being made of wood, could not be permitted to form part of a building which had to be fire-proof. A design was accordingly prepared for erecting massive piers on the south side of it, which would have allowed the old wall to show between them. There are at least two precedents for such a course, one at Southampton, where a Norman house was incorporated in the town walls of the fourteenth century, the other at Rimini, where the walls and windows of a mediæval church show under the Renaissance arches erected by Alberti for Sigismondo Malatesta. This scheme was, however, abandoned when it was found that the old walls were thoroughly rotten, stonework and mortar having alike decayed with age. The rubble walls were, in fact, rent with long fissures, and there was no architectural work that could be "restored" without being altogether remade, mostly from entirely new designs. Under these circumstances, the First Commissioner of Works decided, with great reluctance, that the Chapel should be pulled down. Special treatment will, however, be given to that portion of the new building which will occupy its site, and the old monuments and stained glass will be refixed therein.

Having watched the operations from day to day, I now submit a detailed account of the structure, which could not have been written if the walls had not been demolished. Many of the more interesting features were actually discovered during the present year, but it seems better to describe them now than to postpone all mention of them to a future Report. The series of accompanying illustrations does not represent the state of the Chapel at any one date, the object of them being mainly to make the following account intelligible.

¹ 7 Will. IV. and 1 Vict. cap. 46.

To face p. 31.

ROLLS CHAPEL.
CHANCERY LANE WC



The upper part of the west wall was of red brick, and contained a plain square-headed window, which gave light to the room over the vaulting of the Chapel. After the removal of the outer coating of flint, the lower and greater part of the wall was found to be of rubble. A number of squared stones, evidently of older date, had been inserted casually here and there, and the faces of some of these had been scored with intersecting lines, so as to make them appear no larger than their neighbours. In the middle of the wall was a large pointed window, without any traces of mullions or of Gothic mouldings. Under it was a plain round-headed doorway of Portland oolite, painted stone colour, which served as the main entrance to the Chapel. At the two angles were plain buttresses projecting westward encased with slabs of stone, mended in places with stucco. In the heart of the west wall, about a yard above the ground level, was found the head of an ecclesiastic of the thirteenth century carved in stone, which had been damaged by fire. This seems to have been originally the dripstone of a hood moulding over a doorway or a window. The whole wall was, moreover, found to be resting on a layer of wrought stones which appear to have been portions of the jambs of a doorway of the thirteenth century.

In the absence of direct documentary evidence, the date of the west wall cannot be stated with certainty. Upon architectural evidence, however, the upper part may safely be ascribed to the middle of the seventeenth century. The lower part may have been older, but it clearly was not part of the original structure of Henry III. The doorway probably dated from the reign of George I.

The upper part of the south wall was of red brick, with a plain coping of stone. Immediately below the brickwork was found an irregular layer of wrought stones, the inner faces of which showed mouldings of the thirteenth century, the exposed faces being quite plain. Some of these had evidently been taken from the chancel-arch described below; others were fragments of windows and of vaulting-ribs, a few of these retaining traces of mediæval colouring. The remainder of the wall, which overhung its base by about 6 inches, was of rubble and thoroughly unsound. If it had not been tied inwards by the wooden beams of the roof, it might have fallen down long ago, and it had to be shored up before the commencement of the demolition.

The south wall had only one buttress at the western end, but there were traces of two others, which were removed in 1784, when the house known as 1, Rolls Yard, was built against part of it. This buttress was, like those of the west wall, encased in slabs of plain stone and mended with stucco. Close to it were found the mutilated remains of a pointed doorway, the sill of which was about a foot below the modern level of the floor of the Chapel. It can hardly have been part of the original structure for some of the stones of which it was composed had been used before for some other purpose. After a considerable period, presumably in the middle of the seventeenth century, an iron grille

was, for some unexplained reason, placed in the head of it, and the outer mouldings were hacked off in order to be used for filling up the lower part. At a still later date, the whole doorway was filled up with rubble, which was in its turn covered with flints in or about 1784.

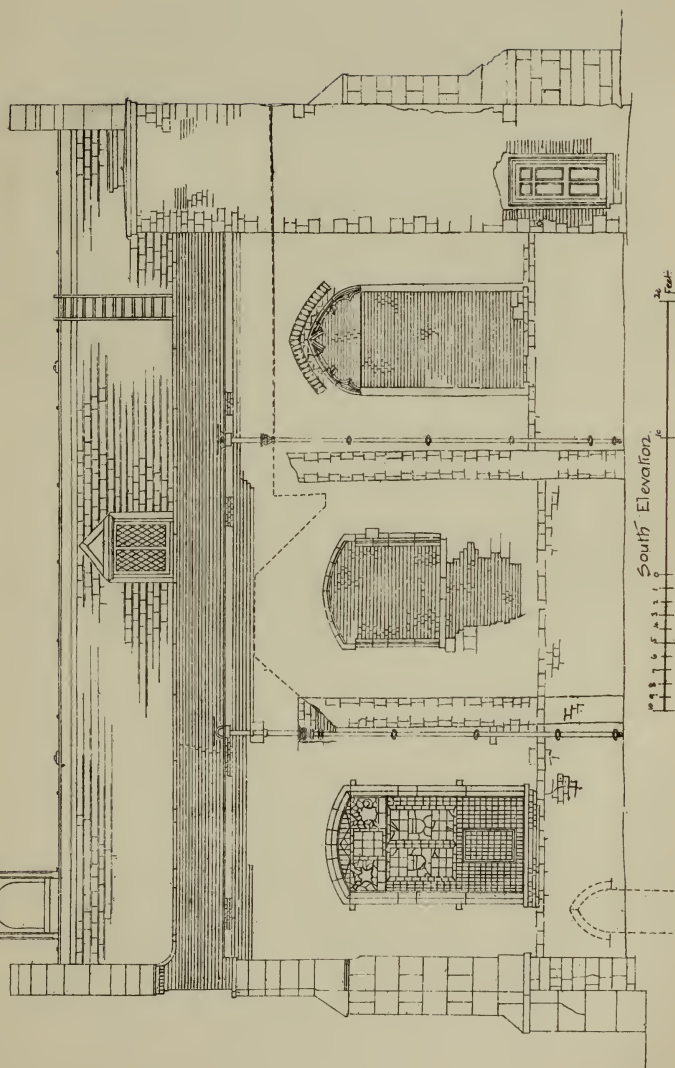
Almost immediately over this doorway buried in the thickness of the wall, was a window with plain chamfered mouldings and a segmental head, which could not have been older than the seventeenth century, and which may indeed have been even later in date. On the removal, however, of the plaster with which the inner splays were lined, it was found that the inner arch was of clunch, slightly pointed, and possibly a work of the time of Edward III. Of tracery or mullions there were no traces whatever.

In the middle bay of the south wall was found a window, of which the inner arch was of clunch, slightly pointed, like its western neighbour. The outer jambs and arch were, however, of Caen stone, possibly inserted by William de Burstall in the reign of Edward III. At some subsequent date, the lower part of the window had been filled up with brick within and with rubble without, and two plain slabs of roach Portland stone had been placed across it in order to form a sill to the upper part still left open. Still later, presumably in the middle of the seventeenth century, the tracery had been demolished, and the upper part of the window filled up, partly with brick and partly with rubble in which were some fragments of its own former mullions.

In the eastern bay of the south wall were found the remains of a window which probably dated from the early part of the reign of Edward I. It originally had three lights and two open spandrels, the central light being a good deal higher than the side lights, which had a single cusp on either side. The jambs and mullions were of Caen stone which had suffered little from age, but which had been barbarously mutilated when the window was closed up, presumably in the middle of the seventeenth century. When the monument of Richard Alington was placed immediately behind this window, the inner part of it was filled up with brickwork, and the outer part was filled up with such materials as came ready to hand. Among these were not only fragments of some of its own mullions and pieces of tracery in Caen stone belonging to a large window of the later part of the fourteenth century, but also fragments of marble columns and other vestiges of monuments which cannot have been older than the seventeenth century. It can hardly be supposed that these monuments could have been deliberately destroyed so soon after the date of their erection, and so I venture to suggest that the fragments discovered were imperfect pieces of work which had been lying in the mason's yard until utilised for filling up the window. In this connexion, I have already called attention to the fact that the Earl and Countess of Norwich, whose arms were carved on some of the stones found here, were both buried in Westminster Abbey.

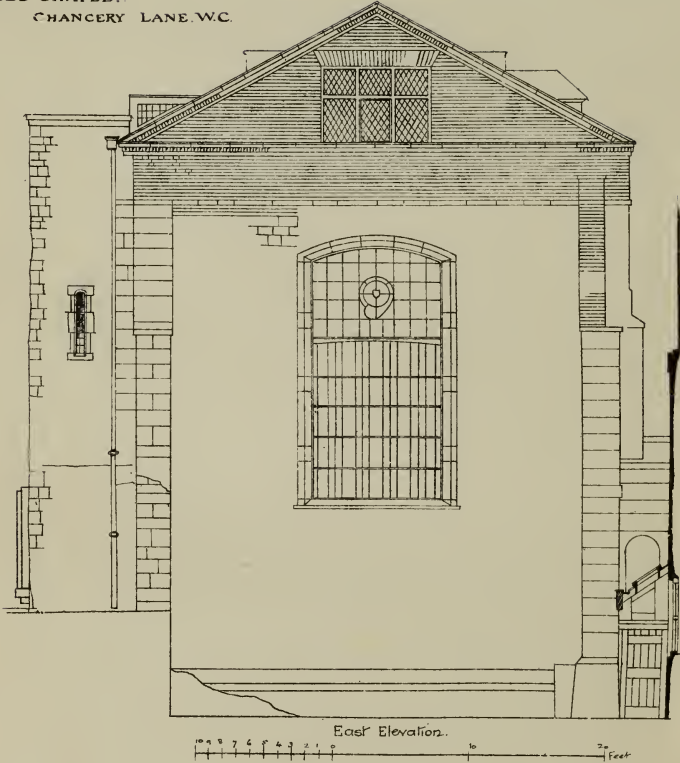
ROLLS CHAPEL.
CHANCERY LANE. W.C.

To face p. 32.



To face p. 33.

ROLLS CHAPEL.
CHANCERY LANE, W.C.



In the heart of the eastern part of the south wall, immediately behind the monument of Richard Alington, there were several fragments of an Early English string-course and other pieces of wrought stone-work mixed with rubble. It would, however, be difficult to determine whether that portion of the wall dates from the time of Edward I. or Edward III. or merely from the middle of the seventeenth century.

At the eastern end of the south wall was a square turret projecting southward, the southern and western sides of which were revealed in 1889, by the demolition of the house known as 1, Rolls Yard. There was a comparatively modern doorway leading into it from that house, and another doorway leading from it into the south-eastern corner of the Chapel. The quoins were of Caen stone, very much decayed, and the portion above the roof of the adjoining house had been covered with stucco as a protection against the weather. The rest of the walls were of rubble, except below the modern level of the ground, where there were several courses of ashlar. A plain square-headed slit on the east and another on west formerly gave light to a spiral staircase within, leading up to the room above the chapel and on to the roof. The whole turret has been supposed to be part of the original structure of Henry III. but, on removing the winding steps it was found that one of the lowest of them was resting on an Early English base for a shaft. Altogether it is very doubtful whether any part of the turret, except perhaps the ashlar work below the modern level, was built before the reign of Edward I.

The upper part of the east wall was of brick, with a square window in it, corresponding with that in the west wall, and giving light to the room over the Chapel. The lower part was mainly of rubble, with a later coating of flint. There were two buttresses, presumably of the seventeenth century, but made of old materials. In the middle was a large window with a segmental head, evidently of no great antiquity. Here it was that one of the most interesting discoveries was made while the Chapel was being demolished, the removal of some of the rubble revealing the existence in the core of the wall of a fine chancel arch of the time of Henry III. the very existence of which had not been suspected. The apex of it had been removed, presumably in the seventeenth century, to make room for the window, but the stones so removed were fortunately found in the north and south walls, and there was enough standing *in situ* to show the exact line of curvature. Some of the internal ashlar also remained on the north side. The arch, which was of clunch, sprang from corbels of delicate early English foliage carrying *abaci* of Purbeck marble. A notch cut through the mouldings on either side of the western face of the arch showed the level at which a beam for the rood or part of a rood-loft had been inserted. After the removal of the rubble and brick filling up the space between the arch and the window, the former was traced down to its base, which proved to be about

two feet below the level of the pavement of that part of the Chapel. To have cleared the whole space under the newly found arch down to the original level would have necessitated the destruction of several vaults and graves and the removal of the coffins in them, and as this course was not considered expedient, the arch was eventually taken down. Every stone of it was, however, numbered and put away, and the intention is to re-erect it on a higher level near its original position, completing it with the fragments which were discovered in the north and south walls of the Chapel.

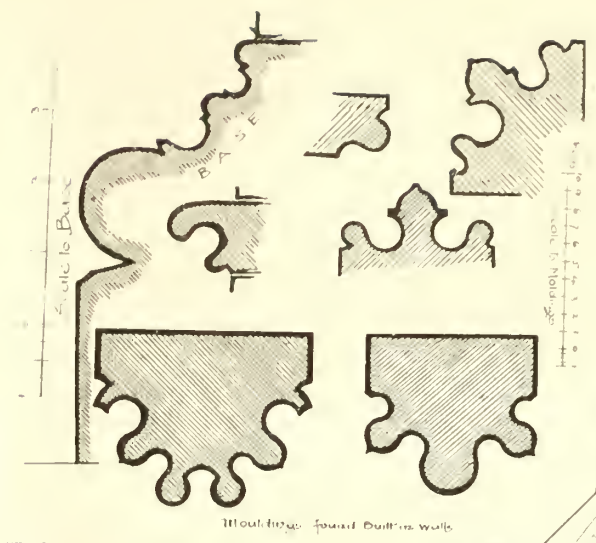
Close to the chancel arch there were found buried behind the plastering of the south wall the mutilated remains of a piscina, which must have belonged to an adjoining altar under the rood-beam. Although standing in its proper position, it cannot have formed part of the original structure, inasmuch as two of the stones of which it was composed had earlier mouldings on sides which were imbedded in the wall.

The north wall of the Chapel was divided into four bays by three buttresses, which may have been erected in the reign of Henry III. Their nosings and the lower portions of them had, however, been removed, and they were resting upon brick arches of the reign of George I. spanning the passage which led down from Rolls Yard to the basement of Rolls House.

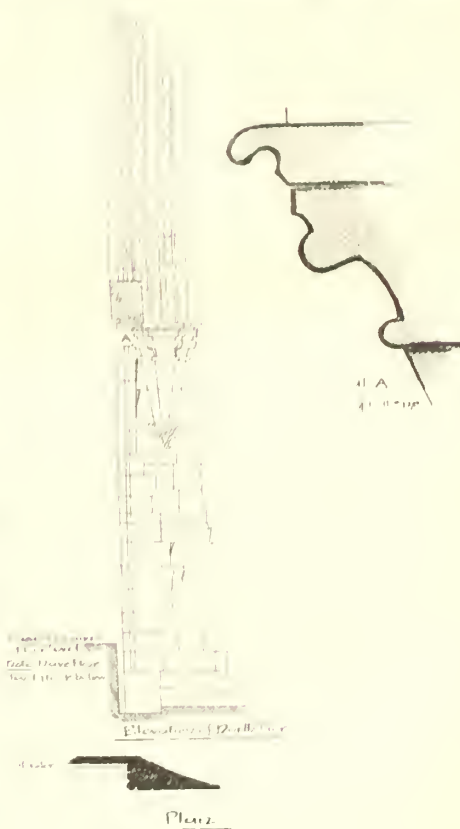
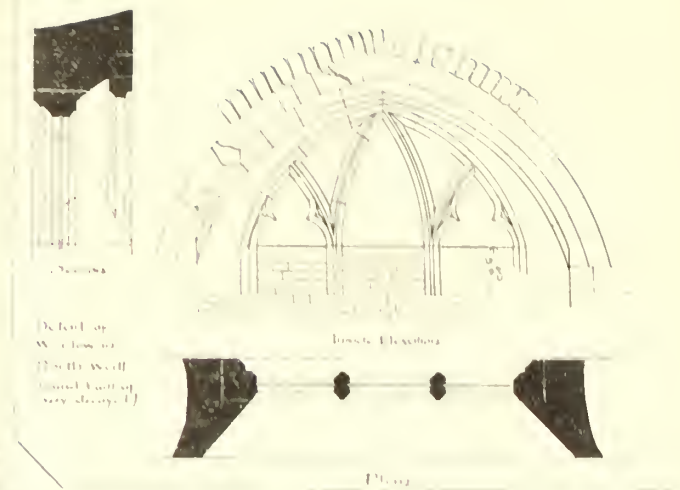
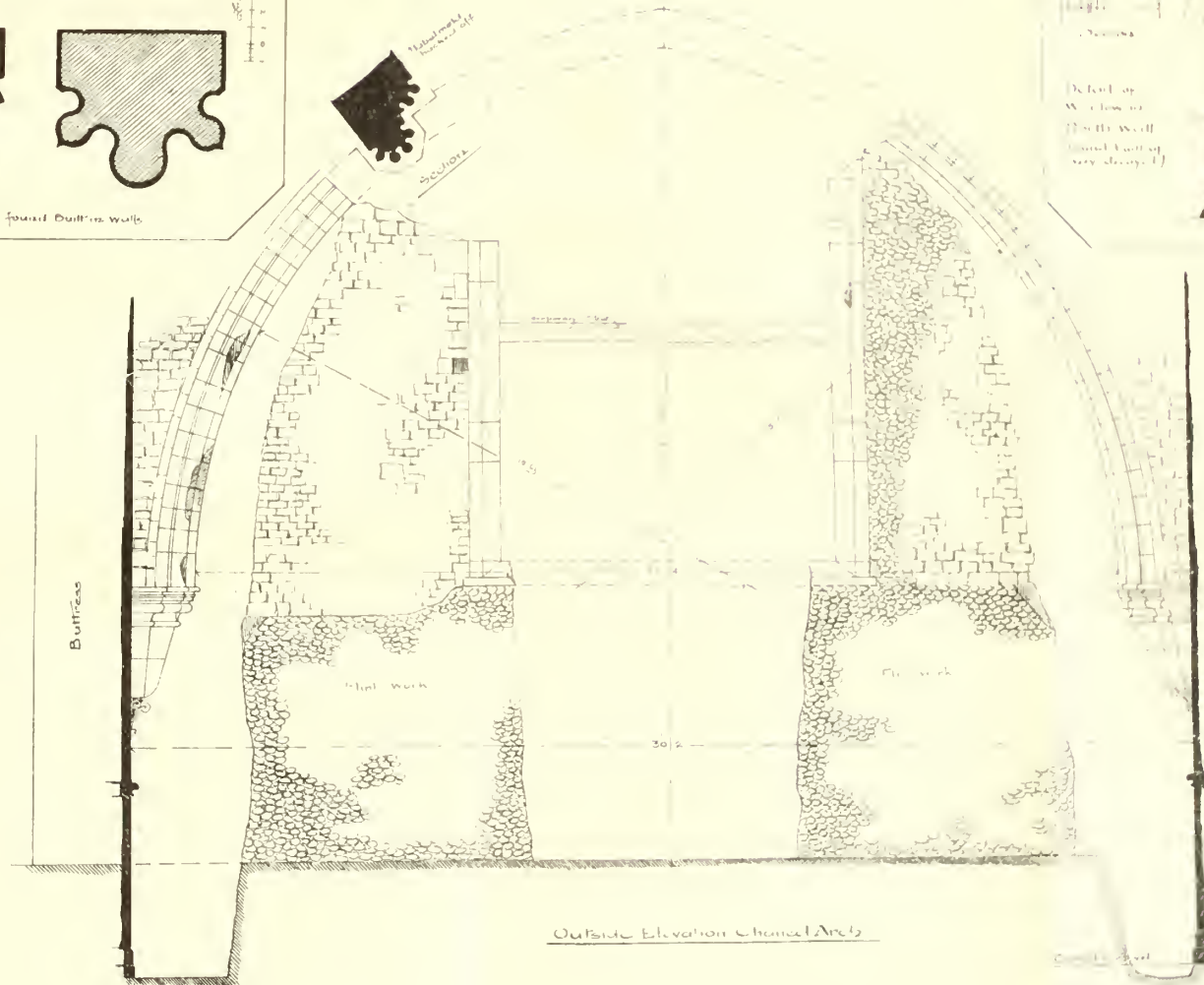
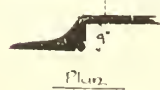
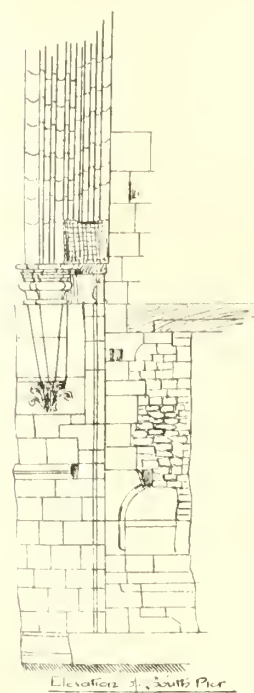
The eastern part of the north wall was of brick in two thicknesses, of which the inner was certainly the older, having been put up in order to stop an entrance into a gallery or perhaps into a rood loft. The outer layer appears to have been added in the reign of George I.

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In the second bay of the north wall were found the decayed remains of a three-light window of the time of Edward I. corresponding in design with that opposite to it in the south wall, but made of clunch, the mouldings of which had crumbled away. The upper part had been clumsily restored at some unknown date. Several of the stones used in the lower part of the jambs were found to bear on the inside, that is to say on parts imbedded in the wall which were not visible until removed, mouldings of the time of Henry III. doubtless taken from the side aisles in 1275. The central light and the western light of this window appear to have been blocked up from the inside with brickwork when the monument of Lord Bruce of Kinloss was set up against it, but there are grounds for believing that the eastern light was left open somewhat longer. Eventually the whole window was blocked up with bricks inserted from without. Most of the old ironwork and a few very small fragments of painted glass were found here between the two thicknesses of brick.

Underneath this window there were found in the wall some traces of a pointed doorway, of which all the mouldings had been hacked off before it was filled up with rubble and brick. In the

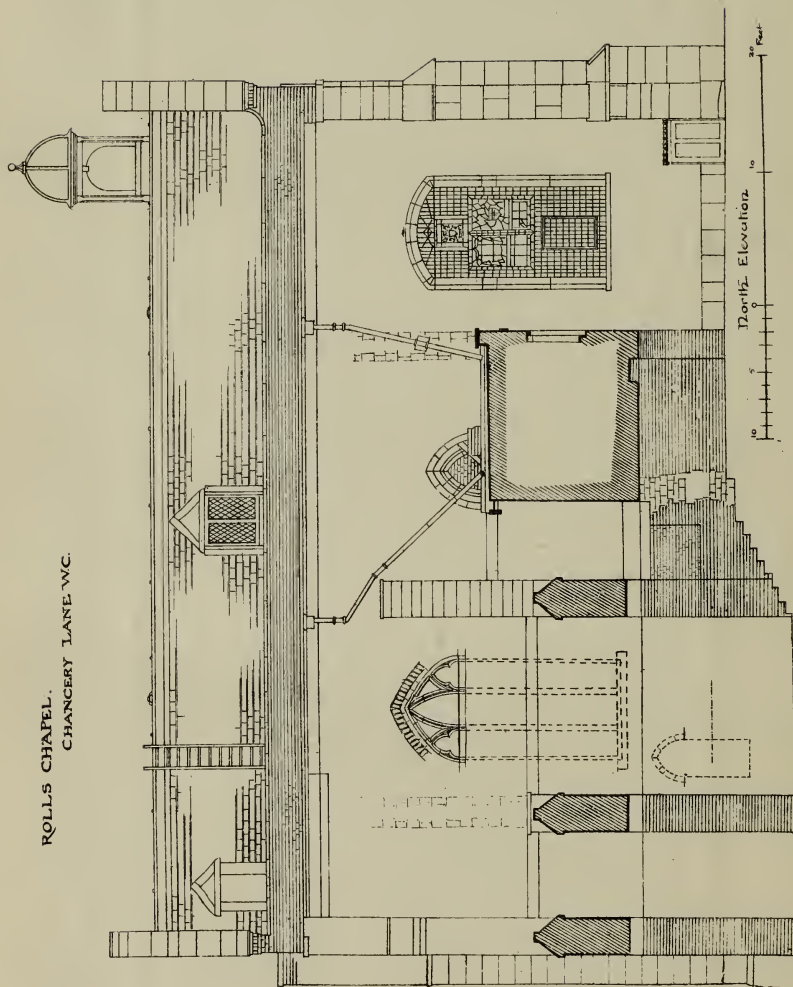


ROLLS CHAPEL
CHANCERY LANE W.C.



To face p. 35.

ROLLS CHAPEL.
CHANCERY LANE W.C.



middle of it was a small wooden frame of comparatively modern date, which seems to have been connected with a flue for admitting warm air from Rolls House into the Chapel.

In the third bay of the north wall was found the head of the only original lancet window of the time of Henry III. that had survived the many vicissitudes to which the Chapel has been exposed. Being of clunch it had suffered much from exposure to the weather, and it had been filled up in the reign of George I., when the lower part was removed in order to make room for an entrance into a raised pew for the Master of the Rolls. The inner arch was different in shape from any of the others found beneath the plaster.

The only window in the north wall which had not been blocked up in the seventeenth or the eighteenth century was that in the western bay. It was exactly similar to that on the opposite side, and already described, and it may perhaps be attributed to the time of Edward III.

Just outside the Chapel, near the north-western angle, was found an ancient well, lined with stone, but filled with rubbish.

The bell-turret probably dated from the middle of the seventeenth century.

The modern floor of the western part of the chapel was a foot above the old level; that of the eastern part, which was approached by two steps, was two feet above the old level. The existence of the steps is mentioned as early as 1708,¹ and it is almost certain that they were made soon after the demolition of the original chancel, so as to form a ritual chancel in the eastern part of the nave. Several of the stones supporting the pavement near the south-eastern corner bore Early English mouldings, and the discovery of them in this position tends to show that the new chancel was made at a time when there was old material available, presumably in the middle of the seventeenth century. However this may be, it is clear that the monuments of Dr. Yong and Richard Alington cannot have been set up in the positions which they recently occupied until after the demolition of the original chancel, inasmuch as their bases were upon the new and higher level.

All the monuments were carefully protected during the demolition of the Chapel, and, although they were eventually taken down, they will be re-erected before long. A very short description of each will therefore suffice. That of Dr. Yong, mentioned above, has long been the chief ornament of Rolls Chapel, and it is one of the finest examples in England of the monumental art of the Italian Renaissance. By a will dated 25 April 1516, John Yong, Master of the Rolls and Dean of the metropolitan church of York, directed that his body should be buried "in the chapell of the Rollys, there as the organs nowe doth stand," and that "a tombe" should be made "over the place" of his sepulture.² He died on the very day of the execution of the will, and no time

see maddy
Ident N & Q
1895 I 73

¹ Wills at Somerset House. Holder, f. 17.

² Hatton's "New View of London."

was lost in giving effect to it. As, however, we have no indication of the former position of the organ, the original site of his grave is unknown; perhaps it was in the chancel. For more than two hundred years the monument has stood at the eastern end of the north wall, in an arched recess contemporary with it. The recumbent effigy of the deceased, attired in a red gown, with tippet and hood, is finely modelled in coloured terra cotta. The hands are crossed on the breast, and the head, which bears a square cap, rests on two pillows, showing traces of ancient gilding. The stone sarcophagus rests on two lions' paws, between which there is a long scroll bearing the inscription, "Dominus firmamentum meum." On the richly moulded pedestal below are three panels, two of which contain shields of the Yong arms, formerly coloured, surrounded by arabesques. The larger panel in the centre, made of white marble, has arabesques at either end, and bears the inscription "Jo. Yong, LL. Doctori, Sacrorum Scriniorum ac hujus domus Custodi, Decano olim Ebor. vita defuncto xxv. Aprilis, sui fideles executores hoc posuerunt. MDXVI."

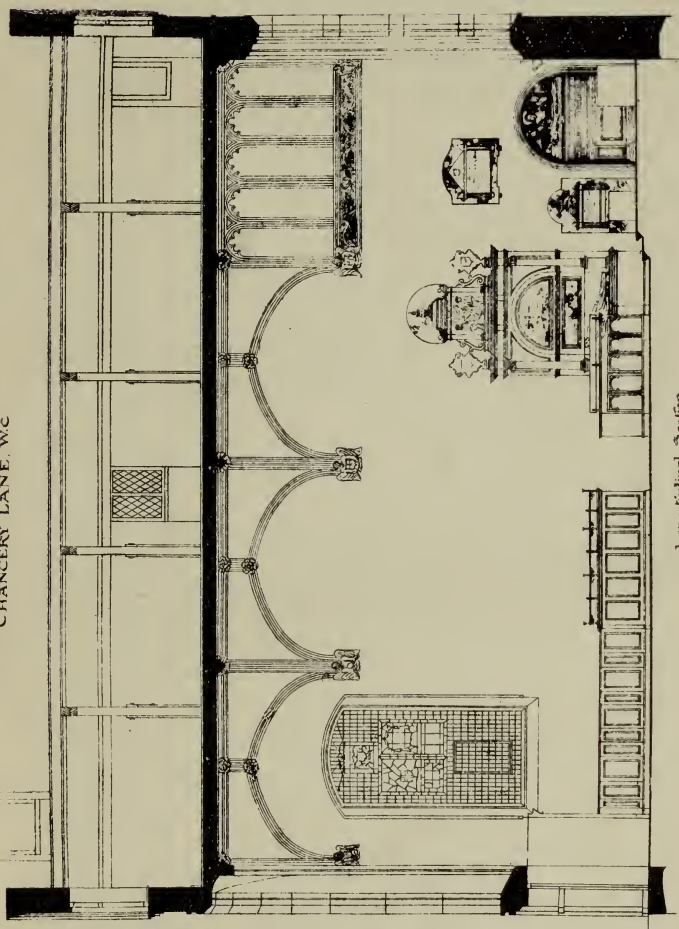
In the lunette of the recess above the effigy are heads of Our Lord and two cherubs, all in high relief, and made of terra cotta. "The type of the Christ is a common one in the Florentine art of the period."¹ It is affixed to a large block of Caen stone, on which are carved some clouds below the figure, and a nimbus round the head, painted with radiating lines. The cherubs' heads are so disproportionately large and of such inferior design that they can hardly be ascribed to the skilled hand which modelled the head of Christ and the effigy of Dr. Yong. In fact, they may have been made when the whole monument was moved, presumably in the middle of the seventeenth century. These last have long been believed to be the work of Pietro Torregiano, who made the tomb of Henry VII. in Westminster Abbey, and who, very shortly after Dr. Yong's death, undertook to set up the high altar in that king's chapel. "Allowing for the thicker ermine-lined robes of the king, the cast of drapery is so precisely similar to that in Henry VII.'s monument that there can be no doubt that they were either designed by the same person or copied the one from the other. The intelligent differences between them, however, preclude," in the opinion of Mr. Alfred Higgins, "the idea of a mere copy by an inferior artist."

Fresh confirmatory evidence of the connexion between the monument of Dr. Yong and that of Henry VII. was found as recently as July 1896, while the former was being removed to a temporary place of deposit. Mutilated fragments of an elaborate stringcourse were then discovered on the backs of the stone to which the head of Christ is affixed, and two other stones in the lower part of the monument in Rolls Chapel, and, on careful

¹ See an illustrated description of this monument by Mr. Alfred Higgins in the "Archæological Journal," vol. li. I am authorised by the writer to say that he now agrees with me in the opinion that the archivolt of the recess is contemporary with the figure and the sarcophagus.

To face p. 36.

ROLLS CHAPEL
CHANCERY LANE, W.C.



Longitudinal Section



examination, they proved to be very similar to certain carvings in the chapel of Henry VII. at Westminster. On one fragment is the headless figure of a demi-angel, with the right arm extended towards a large Tudor rose, formerly surmounted by a crown. On another is part of a demi-angel, whose drapery is made of feathers. Corresponding figures are to be seen at Westminster, above the arcade and elsewhere in the chapel. That these carved fragments were ever actually used at the Abbey is extremely unlikely, but it is quite possible that they may have been models, carved by way of experiment. If so, they would not have been wanted after the completion of the work, and Torregiano may have been able to secure them on easy terms for the monument at Rolls Chapel. Casts of them have been taken.

Another very recent discovery in connexion with Dr. Yong's tomb must also be mentioned here, inasmuch as it will affect the general appearance of it when re-erected. Until quite lately the arch over the recess in which it stood was slightly below the surface of the adjoining wall. When, however, the plaster was removed from the wall, it was discovered that the outer moulding of the archivolt was also made of that material, and that the whole archivolt was intended to project beyond the face of the wall to which it was originally affixed. Deep below the plaster was found a surface of smooth stone, showing traces of painted scroll-work, which must once have extended over the adjoining part of the wall on the same plane. The exposed portion of the archivolt was thickly coated with whitewash, and some false joints had been cut into it, in order to continue the lines indented in the surface of the modern plaster on the wall. The masonry behind the arched recess was of rubble and brick, dating presumably¹ from the middle of the seventeenth century.

Weaver, writing in 1631, gives the inscription which remains on Dr. Yong's monument, and adds that there were "upon an old table hanging by" the following verses "written in text hand":—

"Hic jacet ille Johannes Yong cognomine dignus
 Tali, quod nunquam marcesceret utpote charus
 Omnibus, apprime summo testante dolore
 Quem neque celabant neque dissimulare valebant.
 Dum sternit Juvenem mors immatura labentem,
 Quis non defleret Juvenis miserabile fatum?
 Ex quo multorum pendebat vita, salusque;
 Horum, inquam imprimis, quos ille benignus alebat
 Impensis, donec vitales carperet auras.
 Nec satis illi erat hoc privatis consuluisse
 Rebus, quin etiam prudenter publica gessit
 Munia, sive forensia sive etiam extera, summa
 Cum laude, illa quidem dum sacris preluit olim
 Scriniis, hæc vero legati functus honore."¹

¹ "Funeral Monuments," p. 230. I have slightly altered the spelling and punctuation.

The Latinity of these punning verses does not show the influence of the Renaissance which is so evident in Torregiano's beautiful monument. They are not quoted in the first edition of Dugdale's "*Origines Juridiciales*," printed in 1666, and they had certainly disappeared by 1708.¹ The allusion in the last line is to the diplomatic functions with which Dr. Yong was entrusted by Henry VIII. but it is somewhat remarkable that neither the tomb nor the verses give any indication of the fact that he was titular Bishop of Gallipoli.²

Almost opposite to the tomb of Dr. Yong, immediately west of the door from the Chapel into the turret, stood the Alington monument, a fine example of the Elizabethan period. The will of Richard Alington, of Lincoln's Inn, is curious for its mention of the appearance to him in infancy of "a picture of the Crosse and Christe nailed thereon," and of a subsequent dream that he saw "a monstrowse greate blacke fowle like a raven, having behind her in her hinder partes a deathe's hedd." It also contains a provision for the establishment by certain persons, who are known to have been opponents of the Reformation, of some "foundation or erection to be devised daylie or "weekly giving or representing some lively remembrance of "the passion of Christe." The choice of a church for his burial was specifically entrusted to his executors, of whom one was his wife and another was her brother, Sir William Cordell, Master of the Rolls,³ and the place selected by them was the Rolls Chapel.

The monument set up in memory of Richard Alington is mainly of alabaster, resting upon a base of Purbeck marble, but there are two columns of black marble with composite capitals, and various inlays of the same. In two recesses with semi-circular coffered heads are kneeling figures of the deceased and his wife, facing each other, the former, partly in armour, holding a helmet, the latter holding a book. Above each recess is a mask and some delicate festoons of fruit and foliage in relief. Between them, in a circular recess, is a ball of black marble, which used to be shown to visitors as the cannon ball by which Richard Alington was killed, whereas, in point of fact, he died of small pox.⁴ Above this, on the central panel of the entablature is the following inscription:—"Ricardus Alington armiger, qui hic sepultus est, obiit XXIII die Novembris 1561." On another tablet lower down are the following lines:—

"Hospes, qui fuerim quondam si quæris, amice,
Nomen Alingtonus, stirps generosa fuit.
Hæc monumenta mihi conjux fidissima struxit,
Quæque mihi struxit destinat illa sibi.

¹ Hatton's "New View of London."

² "Letters and Papers, Henry VIII.," vol. iii. p. 340.

³ Wills at Somerset House. Davey, f. 42.

⁴ Machyn's Diary (Camden Society), p. 274.

Charaque conjugii tres natæ pignora nostri
 Sunt, vultus quarum marmora sculpta tenent.
 Cum matre ras omnes precor ut post funera summe
 Cælica perducas in tua regna, Deus." ¹

Figures of the three daughters are accordingly shown in low relief, kneeling towards the deceased, on a tablet between the figures of their parents. Below this again is a shield of arms, painted and gilded, with delicate arabesques on either side. There are traces of gilding elsewhere

The following passage occurs in the will of "Jane Allington, late the wief of Richard Allington esquier deceased," which was dated 15 July 1602 and proved 7 January 1604;—"My will is that my bodie maye be buried in the Chappell of the Rolles of (in) the same vault that my late welbeloved husband Mr. Allington nowe lieth buried in." ²

The letters "S.E." and the inscription "Edmonde Medhoppe, Januarye 31, an^o Dom. 1604," roughly cut on the side of the dado of one of the columns, appear to be mischievous additions.

Irrespective of the evidence furnished by the vaults, which will be noticed below, there are several reasons for believing that the position recently occupied by the Alington monument was not that in which it was originally fixed. Firstly, the base of it was about two feet above the old level of the floor of the Chapel. Secondly, it stood close against an ancient window, in the filling of which were fragments of carved stone and marble posterior to the date of Richard Alington's death. Thirdly, the monument, although most carefully wrought and carved, was put together in a clumsy manner.

Above the Alington monument was a tablet of white and Siena marbles, bearing a coloured coat of arms and the following inscription:—"In this Chappel lyeth buried the Right Honourable William Fortescue of Buckland Filleigh and Fallapit in the county of Devon, Esquire, who, having been one of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer and afterwards one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, was made Master of the Rolls the 5th day of November 1741, and dyed the 16th day of December 1749, in the 63d year of his age."

On the north side of the Chapel, a little to the west of Dr. Yong's monument, were two mural tablets. The upper one, a white marble slab, with coat of arms above, bears the following inscription:—

"To the memory of the Right Hon. Robert, Lord Gifford, Baron Gifford of St. Leonards in the county of Devon, Master of the Rolls, who died the 4th September 1826, in the 48th year of his age.

"Also to the memory of his widow, Harriet Maria Gifford, who died May 20th 1857, and was buried at Albury in Surrey.

"Requiescant in pace."

¹ I have extended some abbreviations.

² Wills at Somerset House. Harte, f. 9.

The lower one, a white marble slab with funeral urn above and coat of arms below, bears the following inscription:—

“To the memory of the Rt. Honble. Sir Thomas Sewell, Knt. Master of the Rolls, and one of His Majesty’s most Honourable Privy Council, this monument was erected in pursuance of the will of Mary Elizabeth, his widow, who long survived him and who, with their child, lies buried in the same vault in this chapel.

“Her Ladyship was of the family of Sibthorpe of Canwick in the county of Lincoln, representatives in many Parliaments for the City of Lincoln.”

A little to the west of these two tablets, stood the largest monument in the Chapel, that of Edward, Lord Bruce of Kinloss, Master of the Rolls, who died in 1611. It is mainly of alabaster, which in places shows remains of the original painting and gilding. Above the entablature, which is carried by two black marble columns with composite capitals, there is a panel containing a shield of the Bruce arms with helmet and crest above, supporters on either side, and the motto “Fuimus” below. There are also subsidiary shields of Bruce impaling Clerk, and Bruce alone. At the top of all is an hour-glass resting on a winged skull. Between the two columns is a shallow recess with semicircular head, in the lunette of which is the following inscription:—

“Sacrae memoriae Domini Edwardi Brucii, Baronis Brucii Kinlossensis, Sacrorum Scriniorum Magistri, dicatum, qui obiit 14^o Januarii salutis 1610, ætatis 62, Jacobi regis 8^o.

“Brucius Edwardus situs hic et Scotus et Anglus,

Scotus ut ortu, Anglis sic oriundus avis.

Regno in utroque decus tulit auctus honoribus amplis,

Regi a consiliis regni utriusque fuit.

Conjuge, prole, nuru, genero, spe, reque beatus,

Vivere nos docuit, nunc docet ecce mori.”

On the main sill above the base of the monument is a large recumbent effigy of the deceased wearing a furred robe, his head supported by his right arm which rests upon a cushion. Below, in front of the base, are four detached figures, kneeling on cushions, all facing a projecting pedestal. The smaller of those on the west side is certainly that of Christian, daughter of the deceased, so called because born on Christmas Day 1596, who, on the 10th of April 1608, was married in this Chapel to William Cavendish, being then “a pretty red-headed wench” of less than thirteen.¹ According to some pedigrees, Lord Bruce of Kinloss had an elder daughter named Janet, who married Thomas Dalyell of Binns, but, on the other hand, Christian Cavendish has been described as his “only daughter.”² However this may be, the larger of the two female figures probably represents Magdalen, Lady Bruce of Kinloss, who survived her husband. The figure

¹ Lodge’s “Illustrations of British History” (ed. 1791), vol. iii. pp. 350–353; “Dictionary of Natural Biography,” vol. ix. p. 343.

² Pomfret’s “Life of Christian, late Countess Dowager of Devonshire” (1685), p. 18.

of a young man in armour, on the east side of the pedestal is that of Sir Edward Bruce, K.B. who succeeded his father in the peerage, and was killed two years later by Sir Edward Sackville, in a duel fought near Bergen-op-Zoom.¹ The smaller figure behind is that of Thomas Bruce, who became third Lord Bruce of Kinloss, and was created Earl of Elgin. Inasmuch as the elder of these two sons of the first Lord Bruce of Kinloss is stated to have died unmarried, while the other did not marry until 1622, the allusion to a step-daughter in the epitaph is worthy of notice.

The base of the Bruce monument, partly concealed by the modern pavement, went down to the level of the original floor, and rested upon a solid foundation of old red bricks. Altogether, there is much less evidence of a removal of this monument from some other position than there is with regard to the monuments of Dr. Yong and Richard Alington. But for numerous breakages in it, and the absence of the bones of the deceased, there would be every reason to believe that it had never been moved.

After the demolition of the walls of Rolls Chapel, all the space below the pavement was carefully examined, but none of the coffins were disturbed. Immediately in front of Dr. Yong's monument was found a skull and a few bones, probably removed from the chancel or some other part of the building, without any traces of a coffin. In an open brick grave, a little to the south, were found two coffins, of which the lower is that of William Fortescue, who died in 1749, and the upper is that of Lord Gifford, who died in 1826. Further south, in a similar grave, were found two coffins, of which one is clearly that of a child, while the other is probably that of a woman, as it measures only 14 inches in breadth. Adjoining this grave, and immediately in front of the position recently occupied by the Alington monument, is a large vault containing five coffins. The lowest on the south side is that of Sir Joseph Jekyll, who died in 1732. Above it is that of Lord Alvanley, who died in 1804, and above that again is an old leaden coffin in very bad condition. On the north side is the coffin of Sir Thomas Plumer, who died in 1824, and beneath it a large coffin of comparatively early form, the position of the head being marked by a square projection. In this vault was also found a large vase of red earthenware, containing a skull and some fragments of bricks.

Another vault to the west of this contains the coffins of Sir Thomas Sewell, who died in 1784, Lady Sewell who died in 1820, and their daughter. In a vault immediately north of this is the coffin of Sir John Trevor, who died in 1717. An open grave further north contains the coffin of Arthur Trevor who died in 1759 at the age of 85, and beyond this is that of a child. Sir Thomas Clarke, who died in 1764, lies buried in a brick vault within a foot of the site of the Bruce monument, under which no traces of any interment were found. If the coffin of Lord Bruce

¹ Collins's "Peerage of England (ed. Brydges), vol. ii. pp. 151-157.

of Kinloss is one of the two old ones in the vault at the south-eastern angle of the Chapel, the body of Jane Alington does not lie in the vault with that of her husband. Altogether the evidence of the interments seems to support the theory previously formed of a great change in the Chapel in the seventeenth century.

The four earliest panels of heraldic glass in the windows of the Rolls Chapel date from the year 1611, and bear the following inscriptions:—

(1.) "Thomas Baro Ellesmere, Angliæ Cancellarius, quondam
" Sacrorum Scriniarum Magister."¹

(2.) "1611. Henricus, præpotentissimi Regis Jacobi, Magnæ
" Britanniæ et Franciæ Regis, filius primogenitus, Princeps
" Walliæ, Dux Cornubiæ et Comes Cestriæ."

(3.) "Dominus Robertus Cecill, Comes Sarisburie, Vicecomes
" Cramburniæ, Baro Cecill, Summus Angliæ Thesaurarius,
" illustrissimæ Regiæ Majestatis Principalis Secretarius, Curie
" Wardorum et Liberationum Præfectus, illustrissimi Ordinis
" Garterii eques."

(4.) "Edvardus Phellips, miles, serviens serenissimi domini
" Regis Jacobi [ad] legem, et primi sub dicto domino Rege
" Parlamenti, quod, in quinque sessiones continuatum, per septem
" annos duraverat, Prolocutor, Sacrorum Scriniarum Magister, et
" illustrissimi domini Henrici Walliæ Principis Cancellarius."

Three of them were recently in the west window, and the fourth was in the north window, but it is quite clear that the positions which they occupied were not those in which they were originally fixed. The shield of the Prince of Wales is surmounted by a coronet and some scroll-work which seems to have been made to fit the head of a pointed window, and the panel of the Phelips arms, which, like the other three, is two feet five inches in width without the border, could not have been put up in the north window until after the removal of the mullions. Any one of them would have fitted the only surviving lancet window in the north wall very well, and there may have been similar lancets in the demolished chancel.

The next two panels in point of date are practically uniform in size with the preceding, and bear the following inscriptions:—

(5.) "1660. Harbottellus Grimston, Barronettus, primi Parlia-
" menti sub serenissimo domino Rege Carolo Secundo, anno regni
" sui duodecimo Prolocutor, et Sacrorum Scriniarum Magister."

(6.) "H. Powle, M.R., 1691." with two monograms, each composed of two letters H and P.

Both of these were in the south window.

One more, also uniform with the above, was in the north window. It bears the inscription:—

(7.) "J. Trevor, Sacrorum Scriniarum Magister," the name being an enlarged copy of the signature of this Master of the Rolls.

¹ I have extended the abbreviations in these inscriptions.

The later panels of heraldic glass are of various sizes and of very inferior execution. They bear the following inscriptions:—

- (8.) "Johannes Leach, miles, obiit 14 September (*sic*) 1834, ætatis suæ 74, Cancellarius Ducatus Cornubiæ 1816, Capitalis Justiciarius Cestriæ 1817, Vice Cancellarius Angliæ et Regiæ Majestati e Secretioribus Consiliis 1818, Scriniorum Sacrorum Magister, 1827."

*13 panels
each 1835
p. 948 top
herald
ed. 1835
13 sep 1835*

This was in the south window, as was also the next.

- (9.) "Robertus, Dominus Gifford, Sacrorum Scriniorum Magister, 1824."

- (10.) "Henry, Baron Langdale, Master of the Rolls, 19th January, 1836."

This was at the top of the west window.

- (11.) "The Right Hon. Sir John Romilly, Knight, Master of the Rolls, 28th March 1851."

This was in the south window.

- (12.) "G. J. 1874."

This memorial of Sir George Jessel was in the west window.

All the glass recently in the east window appears to date from about the year 1821, and is artistically of very little value. It consists of a huge representation of the royal arms of that period and a series of twenty shields of various Masters of the Rolls, from John Frank in the reign of Henry VI. down to Sir Thomas Plumer in the reign of George IV. The shield of Sir John Churchill (1684), which belongs to this series, was for some unknown reason omitted from its proper place, and inserted in the south window.

Like almost everything else connected with the Rolls Chapel, the Register of Burials and Marriages is irregular. Instead of being a contemporary record kept by the officiating minister, it is an imperfect series of notes collected by a layman. The entries are so few that I give them for what they are worth:

"August, 1738.—Sir Joseph Jekyll was buried in the Rolls Chapell in Mr. Allington's vault, near the little door which leads upstairs. Joseph Jekyll, Esq. principall mourner, Mr. Hill, Mr. William Rooke, Mr. Mortimer, and some few others, attending the funerall, which was private."

The service performed by Richard Terrick, who was his chaplain.

December, 1749.—William Fortescue, Esquire died on Saturday morning the 16th December, 1749, about one o'clock, and was buried in the Chapel of the Rolls, on one side of, and close to the Communion Table, on the north side, on Tuesday the 26th of December, about two of the clock in the afternoon. A grave was made (there being no vault just there) sufficient only to hold his coffin, a very wide one. His son-in-law, Mr. Spooner, and his relation, Mr. Dennis, were mourners. Messrs. Holford, Bennett, Allen, Burroughs, Edwards, and Lane (Masters in Chancery) supported the pall, attended by myself (H. R.), his two secretaries, and two registers."

Funeral service performed by Dr. Terrick, his chaplain.

1764.—Sir Thomas Clarke, Master of the Rolls, died Tuesday the 13th of November, 1764, a little after 9 o'clock at night, and he was buried in the Chapel, 21st.'

The above minute is copied from an entry in the hand writing of the late Mr. Rooke in his Office Account Book of the year 1764, now in my possession.

JOHN KIPLING.

1784.—The Right Honorable Sir Thomas Sewell, Master of the Rolls, died on the sixth day of March, at the Rolls House, aged 72, and was buried in the upper part of the Chapel of the Rolls, in a grave which had been made large enough to hold three coffins, inclosed with bricks, wherein his infant daughter and only child by Lady Sewell, who survived him, had been a few years before buried; which grave adjoins to the north on one of Sir John Trevor, formerly Master of the Rolls, whose grave adjoins to the north on that of Sir Thomas Clarke, also late Master of the Rolls, which last-mentioned grave adjoins to the north on the supposed place of interment of Edward Lord Bruce, formerly also Master of the Rolls. Mr. Sewell, the eldest son of Sir Thomas Sewell, Mr. Wm. Sewell, and the Rev. George Sewell, preacher at the Rolls Chapel, two other sons, the undersigned John Kipling, Mr. Deaves, and Mr. Mendham, his two secretaries, and others, attending the funeral, which was private.

The funeral service
was performed by

JOHN KIPLING.

1804, March 26.—The Right Honorable Richard Pepper, Lord Alvanley, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and previously Master of the Rolls, died at his house in Great George Street, the nineteenth day of March, aged 59, and was buried in Mr. Alington's vault in the Chapel of the Rolls, on the 26 of the same month. The coffin was placed over that of Sir Joseph Jekyll, on the south side of the vault. The entrance to the vault was discovered to be under the steps leading to the Communion Table, by removing three courses of stone from Mr. Alington's monument. The funeral, which was private, was attended by Mr. Smith, chief secretary to the Master of the Rolls and late secretary to Lord Alvanley, Mr. Broad, associate and marshal to Lord Alvanley, Mr. Charles Broad, cryer at nisi prius in the Court of Common Pleas, Mr. Gordon, his Lordship's clerk, and others, in the presence of

The funeral service
was performed by
the Rev. Dr.
Strachey, Preacher
at the Rolls Chapel.

J. K.

JOHN DAVIES, Clerk to Mr. Kipling.

1820, 26 September.—Dame Mary Elizabeth Sewell, widow of the Right Honorable Sir Thomas Sewell, late Master of the Rolls, died 16 September 1820, aged 79 years, and was buried in the Chapel of the Rolls on the 26 day of the same month, near to the said Sir Thomas Sewell, in the presence of

The funeral service
was performed by
the Rev. Mr. Smed-
ley, Reader at the
Rolls Chapel.

J. K.

JOHN DAVIES, Clerk to Mr. Kipling.

1824, 1 April.—The Right Honorable Sir Thomas Plumer, Master of the Rolls, died the 25 day of March at the Rolls House, aged 70, and was buried in Mr. Alington's vault. The funeral (which was private) was attended by Thomas Hall Plumer, Esq., his eldest son, and four other sons, and also by his executors and others, in the presence of

The funeral service
performed by the
Rev. Mr. Sandford,
preacher at the
Rolls, assisted by
the Rev. Mr. Smed-
ley, Reader there.

J. K.

JOHN DAVIES, Clerk to Mr. Kipling.

1826, September.—The Right Honorable Robert, Baron Gifford, of Saint Leonards, in the county of Devon, Master of the Rolls and Deputy Speaker of the House of Peers, died at Dover, the fourth day of September, in the forty-eighth year of his age, and was buried in the Chapel of the Rolls on the twelfth day of the same month. The coffin was placed upon that of the Right Honorable William Fortescue, formerly Master of the Rolls, in a grave on the north side of the Communion Table. His Lordship's two brothers, Mr. William Gifford and Mr. Charles Gifford, attended as chief mourners. The pall was supported by John Earl of Eldon, Lord High Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, the Lord Chief Baron of Scotland, the Right Honorable Sir William Grant, late Master of the Rolls, Mr. Justice Bayley, Mr. Justice Park, and Mr. Justice Gaselee. The funeral was also attended by His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor-General, Sir James McIntosh, Sir Charles Forbes, Mr. Sergeant Cross, Mr. Sergeant Adams, his Lordship's two secretaries, and some others, in the presence of

The funeral service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Rowlatt, reader at the Temple Church.

J. K.

THOMAS PALMER, Clerk to John Kipling, Esq.

There does not appear to have been any Register Book of Marriages kept at the Rolls before the year 1736. The chaplain or reader there for the time being making a private note thereof, which they took away with them upon their promotions.

The Date.	The Persons Married.	The Minister.
1736.		
Dec. 7th -	Edward Frewen, of St. Michael le Quern, London, batchelour, and Mary Stevens, of Culham, in the parish of Wargrave, in the county of Berks, spinster.	Richard Terrick, Preacher at the Rolls.
Feb. 1st -	The Reverend Mr. Richard Fletcher, of Woolwich, in the county of Kent, batchelor, and Mary Hayre, of the same place, spinster.	James Bate, Rector of Deptford.
1737.		
May the 21st	Richard Glover, of the parish of St. Martin's Orgars, London, batchelor, and Hannah Nunn, of the parish of Saint Bartholomew the Great, London, spinster.	The Right Revd. the Lord Bishop of Londonderry.
June the 3d	Joseph Skidmore, of Christ Church, in the county of Middlesex, and Hannah Prior, of St. George the Martyr.	The Revnd. Mr. Clark, Reader at the Rolls.
1738.		
May the 23d	William Fellows, of the parish of St. George, Hanover Square, and Sarah Bliss, of the same parish.	The Revnd. Mr. Clark, Reader at the Rolls.
June 24th 1738.	James Turner, of Stoke Newington, widdower, to Martha Spencer, of the same place, spinster.	Tho. Wilson, Rector of Saint Stephen, Walbroke.
Dec. the 4th, 1738.	William Martin, of Wooborne, in the county of Bucks, batchelor, and Margaret Parker, of Harmondsworth, in the county of Middlesex, spinster.	Richd. Terrick, Preacher at the Rolls.

The Date.	The Persons Married.	The Minister.
Jan. 20th, 1738.	Walter Grimstead, of the parish of Saint Gregory, London, batchelor, and Rachael Barnes, of Hayes, in the county of Kent, spinster. 1741.	Richd. Terrick, Preacher at the Rolls.
Dec. the 17th	Thomas Pochin, of Loughborough, in the county of Leicester, batchelor, and Dame Prudence Jenkinson, of the parish of St. George the Martyr, in the county of Middlesex, widow. 1742.	Richd. Terrick, Preacher at the Rolls.
May 13th -	Thomas Immines, widower, of St. Giles, Cripplegate, and Elizabeth Immines, of the parish of Saint Andrew, Holborn, London, widow.	Tho. Clarke, Reader at the Rolls.
Nov. 14th -	James Cawthorn, of the parish of Saint Anne, Westminster, in the county of Middlesex, batchelor, and Mary Clare, of the same parish, spinster. 1743.	Tho. Clarke, the Reader at the Rolls.
May 19th -	William Sergeant and Anne Jolly, both of the parish of St. George. Qre. whaf parish of St. George.	Tho. Clarke, the Reader at the Rolls.
May 31st -	Samuell Cook, of the parish of Saint Martin in the Feilds, in the county of Middlesex, batchelor, and Elizabeth Wilson, of the same parish, spinster.	Tho. Clarke, Reader at the Rolls Chapell.
Feb. 5th -	Godfrey Langhelt, of the parish of Saint Margaret, Westminster, and Barbarah Herbert, of the same parish, spinster. 1744.	Rev. Mr. Thomas Clarke, the Reader at the Rolls Chapell.
May the 3rd	William Massingberd, Esq. of the parish of Gunby, in the county of Lincoln, widower, and Elizabeth Drake, of the city of Lincoln, spinster. 1745.	Richard Terrick, Preacher at the Rolls.
March 6th -	The Rev. Mr. Richard Ward, of the parish of Kensington, in the county of Middlesex, batchelor, and Elizabeth King, of the same parish, spinster. 1746.	The Rev. Mr. Has- sell, of Acton, in Middlesex.
June 8th -	Charles Boyland, of St. Bride's, London, widower, and Anne Willis, of the same parish, widow. 1747.	The Rev. Mr. Clarke, Reader at the Rolls.
May 29th -	Nicholas Dennys, of Lions Inn, in the county of Middlesex, batchelor, and Elizabeth Belfeld, of the Liberty of the Rolls, in the parish of Saint Dunstan in the West, London, spinster.	The Rev. Mr. Joseph Butler, the Minister of Shadwell.

The Date.	The Persons Married.	The Minister.
	1748.	
June 30th -	John Dowding, of the parish of St. James, Westminster, widower, and Elizabeth Long, of the same parish, widow.	The Rev. Mr. Clarke, the Reader at the Rolls.
	1749.	
April 6th -	The Revd. Thomas Chapman, Doctor of Laws, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, batchelor, and Elizabeth Barnewell, of St. Catherine Coleman, London, spinster.	The Rev. Dr. Rooke, Master of Christ College, Cambridge."

I cannot conclude this account of the Rolls Chapel without acknowledging the assistance which I have received in the compilation of it from Mr. Alfred Higgins, F.S.A., from Mr. Hubert Hall, and Mr. A. Story Maskelyne, of the Public Record Office, and from Mr. W. Dyer, Clerk of the Works.

H. C. M. L.

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